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Isospora californica (Protozoa: Eimeriidae) in *Peromyscus maniculatus* (Cricetidae) from White Sands National Monument, New Mexico

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ISOSPORA CALIFORNICA (PROTOZOA: EIMERIIDAE) IN *PEROMYSCUS MANICULATUS* (CRICETIDAE) FROM WHITE SANDS NATIONAL MONUMENT, NEW MEXICO.—During a survey for coccidia in mammals and reptiles at White Sands National Monument, New Mexico, fecal samples from

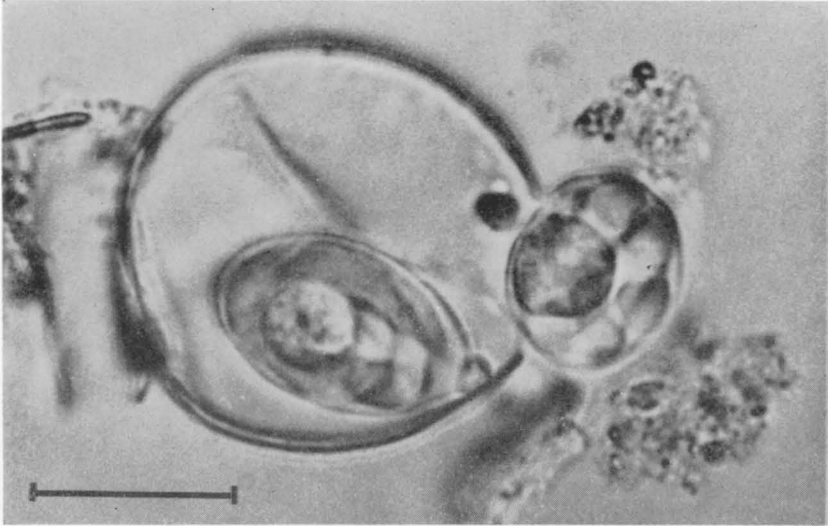


Fig. 1. Sporocyst of *Isospora californica* beside a crushed oocyst. The sporozoites can be seen positioned around the residuum and parallel to the long axis of the sporocyst. Line = 10 μ m.

three *Peromyscus maniculatus* were examined. One was found infected with *Isospora californica* described by Davis (J. Protozool. 14:575-85, 1967). The *I. californica* reported herein and those by Davis were widely separated geographically but did not differ significantly in structure or size. The characteristics of *I. californica* reported in this study are as follows: Oocyst, ovoid, 19–23 x 18–22 μ m (\bar{x} = 20.7 x 19.0), L/W = 1.0–1.4 (\bar{x} = 1.09), 1 polar body; sporocyst, lemon-shaped, 12–16 x 8–12 μ m (\bar{x} = 14.9 x 9.3), L/W = 1.5–2.0 (\bar{x} = 1.60), residuum and Stieda body present. The characteristic arrangement of sporozoites around the sporocyst residuum is shown in Fig. 1.

This report constitutes a new geographic record for *I. californica* and adds a micrograph of the coccidium, which the original description did not include. The latter is important because to correctly identify coccidia, a photograph as well as a drawing is at times necessary.

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