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# A new species of *Demidospermus* (Platyhelminthes, Monogenea, Ancyrocephalidae) from the catfish *Parapimelodus valenciennis* in Samborombón Bay, Argentina

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## Abstract

*Demidospermus annulus* sp. nov. (Platyhelminthes, Monogenea, Ancyrocephalidae) is described from the gills of the catfish *Parapimelodus valenciennis* Lütken collected in Samborombón Bay, Argentina. The new species differs from all congeneric species mainly by the structure of the accessory piece of the male copulatory organ, the sclerotized ring-shaped vaginal aperture and the dorsal bar articulation.

## Keywords

Monogenea, *Demidospermus*, catfish, Salado River, western Atlantic coast

## Introduction

Currently, there are 20 nominal species of *Demidospermus* (Platyhelminthes, Monogenea, Ancyrocephalidae) parasitizing siluriform fishes from South America (Kritsky and Gutiérrez 1998, França *et al.* 2003, Cohen and Kohn 2008, Mendoza-Franco and Scholz 2009, Cepeda and Luque 2010, Monteiro *et al.* 2010). The major numbers of species were reported from Brazilian waters, a total of 11 species found in 7 hosts species. In Argentina 10 species have been reported in Río de La Plata, Río Uruguay, and Río Salado (Santa Fe) from six fishes species of families Pimelodidae, Heptapteridae, Loricariidae and Auchenipteridae.

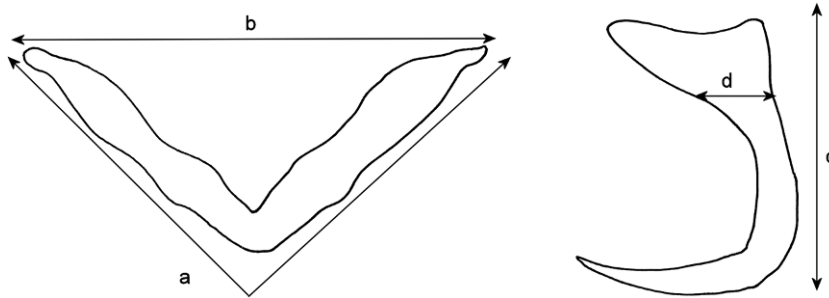
Samborombón Bay is located in the south-western region of the Río de La Plata estuary, between Punta Piedras (32°57'S, 57°08'W) and Punta Rasa (36°18'S, 56°48'W), on the northeast coast of Buenos Aires Province. This area encompasses Argentina's most extensive mixohaline wetland. During a study of parasites of *Parapimelodus valenciennis* from this area, a new species of *Demidospermus* Suriano, 1983 was collected. In this paper the new species is described and illustrated.

## Materials and methods

Specimens of *P. valenciennis* were collected using cast nets between 2006 and 2008 from the Salado River, the main river entering Samborombón Bay. Live fish were transported to the laboratory in containers filled with estuarine water and held in oxygenated aquaria prior to their examination. A total of 118 fish, ranging in total length from 5.9 to 22.3 cm, were examined for parasites. Excised gills from freshly killed fishes were examined under a dissecting microscope, and monogeneans were collected, heat-fixed without pressure, preserved in 10% formalin and mounted in glycerine-jelly for study. In order to study details of their internal anatomy, 25 specimens of monogeneans were heat-fixed under pressure, preserved in 10% formalin, then stained with Van Cleave's haematoxylin, passed through a series of increasing ethanol concentrations between 70 and 100%, cleared in clove oil and mounted in Canada balsam. Other specimens were stained using Gomori's stain for studying the sclerotized hard-parts.

Measurements and drawings were made using a Nikon Optiphot-2 microscope with DIC optics at magnifications of ×400 and ×1,000 and a Wild M20 microscope at a magnifica-

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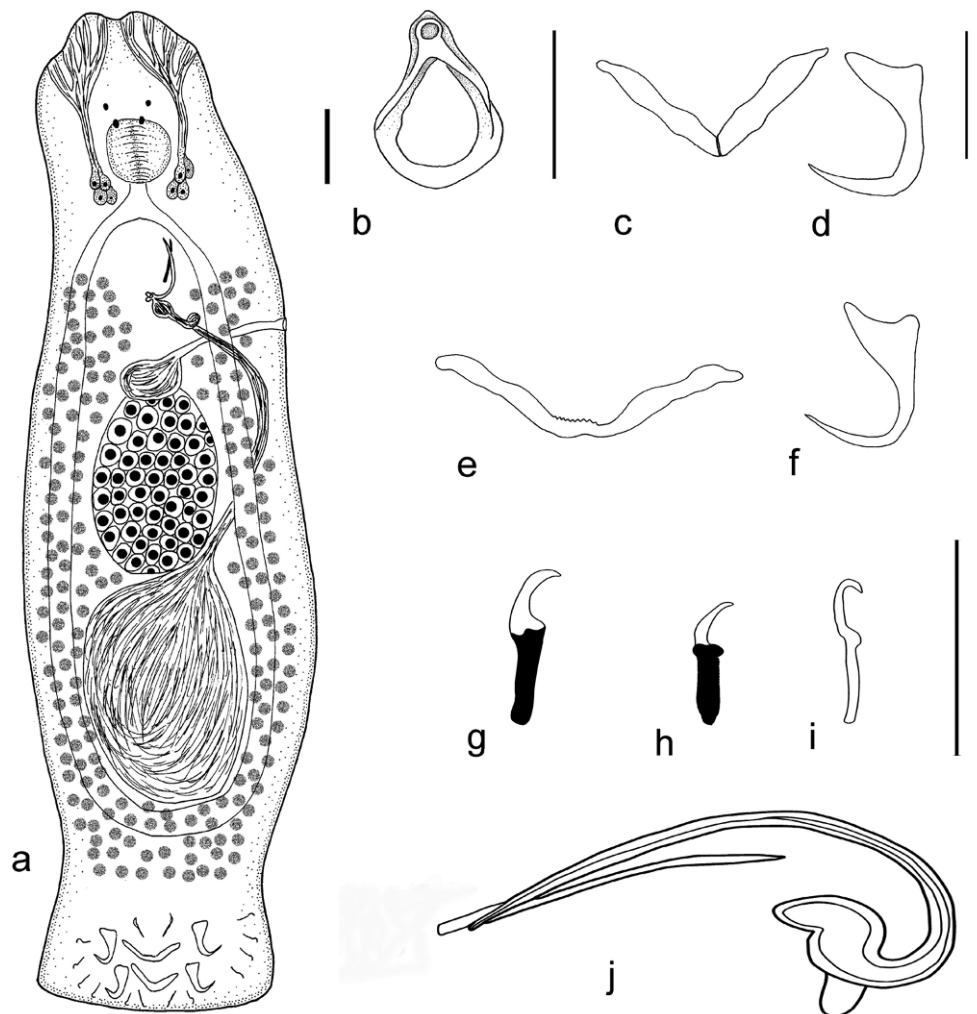


**Fig. 1.** Scheme of measurements for the anchors and bars: **a** – bar length, **b** – bar distance between ends, **c** – anchor length, **d** – anchor base width

tion of  $\times 1,500$  for the sclerotized hard-parts and internal organs. Figures were prepared with the aid of a drawing apparatus. Microphotographs of the sclerotized structures were taken using DIC optics on an Olympus BX51 microscope with an Olympus digital camera. The measuring scheme of anchors and bar is presented in Figure 1. Measurements are given in

micrometres as the mean with the range in parentheses. Numbering (distribution) of hooklets pairs following Mizelle (1963) for adult dactylogyrids.

The following abbreviations are used throughout the text: APL, accessory piece length; BL, body length; BW, body width; DABW, dorsal anchor base width; DAL, dorsal anchor



**Fig 2.** *Demidospermus annulus* sp. nov.: **a** – entire worm, ventral view; **b** – sclerotized vagina; **c** – dorsal bar; **d** – dorsal anchor; **e** – ventral bar; **f** – ventral anchor; **g** – hook pair I; **h** – hook pair VII; **i** – hook pairs II–VI; **j** – male copulatory organ, tube and accessory piece. Scale bars = 20  $\mu\text{m}$  (a, c–f), 25  $\mu\text{m}$  (b, g–i), 20  $\mu\text{m}$  (j)

Table I. Measurements of *Demidospermus* species reported from Argentina

	<i>D. annulus</i> sp. nov.	<i>D. valenciennesi</i>	<i>D. uncusvalidus</i>	<i>D. bidiverticulatum</i>	<i>D. cornicinus</i>	<i>D. idolus</i>
<b>Source</b>	Present study	Kritsky & Gutierrez 1998	Kritsky & Gutierrez 1998, Monteiro 2010	Suriano & Incorvaia 1995, Kritsky & Gutierrez 1998, Chemes <i>et al.</i> 2008	Kritsky & Gutierrez 1998	Kritsky & Gutierrez 1998, Chemes <i>et al.</i> 2008
<b>Host</b>	<i>P. valenciennis</i>	<i>P. valenciennis</i>	<i>P. clarias</i> , <i>P. galeatus</i> , <i>P. maculatus</i>	<i>P. clarias</i> , <i>P. albicans</i> , <i>P. maculatus</i>	<i>Iheringichthys westermanni</i>	<i>P. albicans</i>
BL	392-936	185-303	378-827	193-510	295-571	167-355
BW	90-240	78-120	71-132	41-154	71-112	82-167
DP	26-50	16-24	24-45	15-26	25-30	15-28
DAL	21-29	22-24	37-47	18-24	23-25	21-26
DABW	27-47	12-13	15-18	12-15	14-16	10-18
VAL	21-32	22-25	35-44	18-24	23-26	18-28
VABW	10-18	12-14	19-22	10-18	14-18	10-21
DBDBE	37-48	28-42	39-49	36-72	32-46	31-67
DBL	42-52	48-63	39-65	31-65	58-70	31-82
VBDDBE	47-58	39-48	58-69	28-66	43-76	44-64
VBL	46-67	50-68	58-90	41-78	65-90	54-82
Hooks						
I	21-24	18-20	33-51	14-18	21-26	23-24
II	17-24		22-32	12-15	12-13	12-13
III	17-20		15-19			
IV	18-20	13-15	20			
V	17-19			13-18	15-18	15-17
VI	12-13		22-26			
VII	10-12	16-18	33-51			
TL	151-184	40-76	56-72	28-65	34-77	33-42
TW	50-112	25-46	27-33	17-29	28-56	22-31
MCOL	63-80	55-60	57-90	40-53	53-68	83
APL	27-36	23-28	26-30	31-41	21-34	
GL	85-150	20-48	41-55	27-51	38-60	25-33
GW	37-86	21-37	31-33	20-25	23-38	25-28

Table I. continued

Species	<i>D. anus</i>	<i>D. leptosynophallus</i>	<i>D. paravaleiennesi</i>	<i>D. majusculus</i>	<i>D. armostus</i>
<b>Source</b>	Suriano 1983	Kritsky & Gutierrez 1998	Kritsky & Gutierrez 1998, Monteiro <i>et al.</i> 2010	Kritsky & Gutierrez 1998, Chemes <i>et al.</i> 2008	Kritsky & Gutierrez 1998, Chemes <i>et al.</i> 2008, Monteiro <i>et al.</i> 2010
<b>Host</b>	<i>Loricaria anus</i>	<i>Iheringichthys westermanni</i>	<i>P. clarias</i> , <i>P. maculatus</i>	<i>P. albicans</i>	<i>P. clarias</i> , <i>P. albicans</i> , <i>P. maculatus</i>
BL	500-680	405-648	180-500	380-700	193-449
BW	120-180	122-163	53-96	144-350	87-307
DP		34-40	16-29	31-64	15-30
DAL		35-41	17-24	33-51	18-23
DABW		18-20	11-14	15-26	12-15
VAL		34-44	20-25	39-49	18-23
VABW		19-23	13-15	13-30	13-16
DBDBE	40-80	38-56	31-58	44-75	21-64
DBL	50-100	63-78	48-60	49-72	50-63
VBDDBE		40-67	40-69	41-69	39-62
VBL		80-90	60-80	64-100	46-75
Hooks					
I	15-16	39-46	20-25	38-47	18-24
II		31-33	11-14	22-34	12-15
III		16-18	14-16	19-21	15-17
IV					
V		22-25		24-27	
VI					
VII		39-46	15-20	38-47	
TL		71-103	40-51	101-147	22-53
TW		36	21-27	72-102	18-32
MCOL	210-255	75-95	60-83	113-133	14-21
APL	25-35	32-65	25-30	34-49	12-16
GL		38-57	26-42	39-59	31-44
GW		31-42	14-24	58-77	18-27

length; DBDBE, dorsal bar distance between ends; DBL, dorsal bar length; DP, diameter of pharynx; GL, germarium length; GW, germarium width; MCO, male copulatory organ; MCOL, MCO length; VABW, ventral anchor base width; VAL, ventral anchor length; VBDBE, ventral bar distance between ends; VBL, ventral bar length; TL, testes length; TW, testes width.

***Demidospermus annulus* sp. nov.** (Fig. 2, Table I)

Description. Body 620 (392–936) long, fusiform, maximum width 156 (90–240) at level of gonads. Two terminal, and 2 bilateral, cephalic lobes. Four eye-spots. Pharynx subspherical, 41 (26–50) in diameter. Testes ovoid, 168 (151–184) long, 81 (50–112) width. MCO J-shaped, 70 (63–80) long. Accessory piece 30 (27–36) long, straight to slightly curved, rod-shaped, only distal end in contact with MCO. Vas deferens looping left intestinal caecum. Vaginal aperture sinistral, sclerotized ring-shaped, leading to seminal receptacle. Germarium ovoid, 117 (85–150) long, 56 (37–86) wide. Vitellaria scattered throughout trunk. Similar anchors, short shaft, elongated point, roots poorly defined. Ventral anchor 28 (21–32) long, base 15 (10–18). Dorsal anchor 26 (21–29) long, base 15 (10–28). Ventral bar slightly V- or U-shaped 59 (46–67) long, distance between ends 54 (47–58). Dorsal bar V-shaped with articulation, 47 (42–52) long, distance between ends 43 (37–48). Hooks dissimilar in size, each with recurved point, pair I 22 (21–24) long, pairs II, III, IV, V 18 (17–22) long, pair VI 13 (12–15) long, pair VII 11 (10–12) long.

Type host: *Parapimelodus valenciennis* (Lütken, 1874).

Site of infection: Gill lamellae.

Type locality: Samborombón Bay (32°57'S, 57°08'W), Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Specimens deposited: Deposited in the Museo de la Plata, Invertebrates Collection. La Plata, Argentina. Holotype No. MLP 6302, paratypes No. MLP 6303.

Etymology: The specific name is from Latin (*annulus* = ring) and refers to the ring-shaped sclerotized vaginal aperture.

**Remarks**

The features of specimens analyzed here agree with the genus *Demidospermus* Suriano, 1983 and the emended diagnosis provided by Kritsky and Gutiérrez (1998). *Demidospermus* species can be readily distinguished from other species of the genus by the morphology of the MCO, the ring shaped vaginal sclerite, and measurements of the sclerotized parts of the haptor.

*Demidospermus valenciennesi* Gutiérrez et Suriano, 1992 has been previously reported on *Parapimelodus valenciennis* from Río de La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina. The new species can be distinguished from *D. valenciennesi* by the greater distance between the ends of the dorsal bar and distal ends of the ventral bar, and by the bigger measurement of:

hooks (I and II), testes, germarium, MCO, and accessory piece of MCO (see Table). Additionally, the MCO accessory piece of *D. valenciennesi* is sheath-like instead of rod-shaped in the new species, the dorsal bar has an articulation in the new species, and by the morphology of vaginal sclerite that is clearly different in the new species compared with *D. valenciennesi*.

Currently, nine species of *Demidospermus* have been reported from the Río de La Plata, *D. anus* Suriano, 1983 from *Loricariichthys anus*, *D. paravalenciennesi* Gutiérrez et Suriano, 1992, *D. bidiverticulatum* Suriano et Incorvaia, 1995, and *D. armostus* Kritsky et Gutiérrez, 1998 from *Pimelodus maculatus*, *D. cornicinus* Kritsky et Gutiérrez, 1998 and *D. leptosynophallus* Kritsky et Gutiérrez, 1998 from *Bergiaria westermanii*, *D. idolus* Kritsky et Gutiérrez, 1998 and *D. majusculus* Kritsky et Gutiérrez, 1998 from *P. albicans*, and *D. uncusvalidus* Gutiérrez et Suriano, 1992 from *P. maculatus* and *Trachelyopterus galeatus*. The new species differs from all these species by the morphology of the MCO, by the measurements of haptor pieces, and by the size of the testes and germarium (Table I).

Conversely, *D. annulus* sp. nov. resembles *D. cecarrelli* Cepeda et Luque, 2010 by the J-shaped MCO. However, the new species can be distinguished from *D. cecarrelli* by the morphology of accessory piece of MCO.

In summary, *D. annulus* sp. nov. differs from all congeneric species by the structure of the MCO accessory piece, the sclerotized ring-shaped vaginal aperture and the dorsal bar articulation.

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