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Research Note

**Occurrence of *Quadrigyrus torquatus* Van Cleave, 1920
(*Acanthocephala*) in North-central
Colombia, South America**

During June and July of 1975 and 1976, fish of the Magdalena River basin in Colombia, South America, were examined for acanthocephalans. A total of 16 species of fish were collected from the departments of Caldas and Bolivar. Worms were fixed in AFA and stained in Mayer's carmalum.

Quadrigyrus torquatus Van Cleave, 1920 was recovered from the intestines of two piscine species. No specimens were found in the mesenteries. One of three *Ageneiosus caucanus* taken from Rio Magdalena, vic. San Cristobal, Bolivar, contained three worms and four of seven *Hoplias malabaricus* taken from Quebrada Dona Juana, vic. La Dorada, Caldas, contained from one to six worms. *Ageneiosus caucanus* has not previously been reported as host for *Q. torquatus*. All specimens except one female from each host species were mature with females gravid. The two immature females were 7.70 mm and 6.98 mm in trunk length and each contained a single ovoid unfragmented ovary 132 μ m long by 88 μ m wide. Specimens correspond closely with previous descriptions (Van Cleave, 1920, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 58:455-466; Diaz-Ungria and Gracia Rodrigo, 1957, Noved. Cient. Novedades Cientificas Serie Zoologia 223:1-19). Specimens were deposited in the USNM Helm. Coll., No. 75493.

Quadrigyrus torquatus displays an intriguing pattern of apparent discontinuous distribution. It is now known from two drainage basins in Colombia, the Rio Magdalena (present report) and the Orinoco (Schmidt and Huggins, 1973, J. Parasitol. 59:829-835), two river basins isolated from each other by the northern extension of the Cordillera Oriental portion of the Andes Mountains. The type locality, Lake Valencia, Venezuela (Van Cleave, loc. cit.), is adjacent to the Orinoco basin. The parasite has also been collected from areas remote to these Colombian river basins, the Chagres River in the Panama Canal Zone (Thatcher and Nickol, 1972, Proc. Helminthol. Soc. Wash. 39:245-248), Surinam (Ortlepp, 1924, J. Helminthol. 2:15-40), and Brazil (Machado, 1941, Rev. Bras. Biol. 1:57-61).

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