

PHILANDER OPOSSUM (MARSUPIALIA), A NEW HOST RECORD FOR SPARGANUM OF LUEHEELLA BAER, 1924 (= SPIROMETRA MUELLER, 1937)

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Two samples of Sparganum, the larval form of Lueheella Baer, 1924 (= Spirometra Mueller, 1937) were recovered from Philander opossum (L., 1758) captured in Salobra, Mato Grosso State, Brazil, by Dr. Lauro Travassos in May, 1942. This is the first report of the presence of this larval form in P. opossum.

Dealing with helminths recovered from Brazilian Marsupialia, deposited in Oswaldo Cruz Institute Helminthological Collection, we examined in two samples of the preserved material collected in Salobra, Mato Grosso State, nine larval forms (*Sparganum*) of *Lueheella* sp. One of the samples, with six specimens, was recovered from the pectoral muscles and another, with three specimens, found in the subcutaneous tissue. It is the first report of *Philander opossum* harbouring this larval stage.

The studied preserved wet material was stained and whole mounts were deposited in the Oswaldo Cruz Institute Helminthological Collection ns. 31.470 and 31.471. Measurements are in mm.

DESCRIPTION

Specimens length: 18.5-37.4; width: 0.52-0.80 (at midbody level). Scolex well outlined, 1.57-2.10 wide. Conspicuous bothridia. No evidentiatio of internal structures.

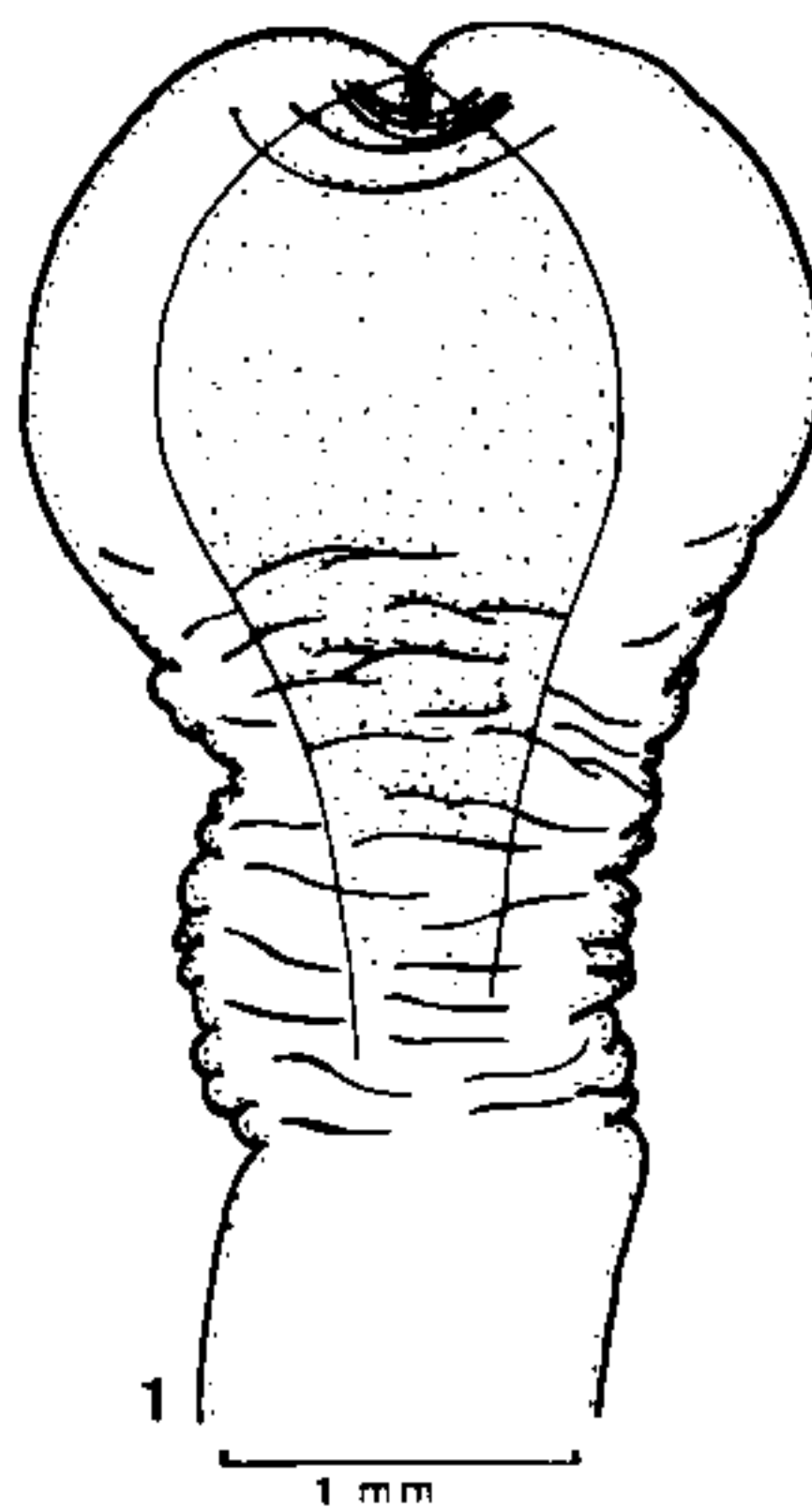


Fig. 1: *Sparganum* of *Lueheella* Baer, 1924. Detail of the scolex.

REMARKS

Janicki (1904) reported these larvae from marsupials of the genus *Didelphis* L., 1758. Baer (1927) created the species *Diphyllobothrium bresslauei* for adult helminths found in *Didelphis marsupialis aurita* Wied, although indicating the occurrence to be unusual. Rego (1961) confirms the validity of *Lueheella* Baer, 1924 based on the priority of this genus concerning *Spirometra* Mueller, 1937. Travassos (1965) also listed this species in the genus *Lueheella*. Maciel & Haddad (1968) reported cases of this sparganosis from Brazil which prompted Gutierrez, Fróes & Amato (1977) to search for hosts of spargana of *L. mansonoides* (Mueller, 1935) among genera of snakes. While man is an accidental host, skunks and opossums could be regarded as paratenic hosts for the spargana of *L. mansonoides*, at least in the Salobra region.

RESUMO

Duas amostras de *Sparganum*, a forma larvar de *Lueheella* Baer, 1924 (= *Spirometra* Mueller, 1937), foram coletadas em *Philander opossum* (L., 1758) capturado em Salobra, MT, pelo Dr. Lauro Travassos, em maio de 1942. Essa é a primeira referência da presença desse estágio larvar em *P. opossum*.

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