

Systematic Parasitology

an international journal

Editor in Chief: Dr. Sheila Willmott, Winches Farm Field Station, 395 Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts AL4 OXQ, England

SYSTEMATIC PARASITOLOGY was launched in 1979 in response to the need for a specialist international journal dealing with the systematic, taxonomic and nomenclatural aspects of parasitic organisms throughout the world.

The study of parasitic animals, many with complicated life-cycles involving two or more hosts, has long fascinated biologists but the subject is of much more than academic interest. Many of the world's most serious diseases of man, animals and plants are caused by parasites. Mortality, long-term chronic illness, morbidity and crop losses are the result. The fact that five of the six diseases given priority in the WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases are caused by helminths and protozoans, underlines the practical importance of these groups.

Until relatively recently, identification was made mainly on morphological grounds. Now, with scanning and transmission electron microscopy, microbiological techniques, isoenzyme determinations and numerical taxonomy, more and more inter- and infraspecific variations and differences are being detected. The importance of these differences in the aetiology of disease, virulence immunogenicity and response to drugs and other chemicals used in control is recognized as of the greatest significance. But in order to work successfully on all these important applied aspects, correct identification and naming of the parasites is an essential pre-requisite.

The journal publishes papers on the systematics, taxonomy and nomenclature of the Nematoda (including plant parasites), Monogenea, Digenea, Cestoda, Acanthocephala, Aspidobothria, Cestodaria, Arthropoda (parasitic copepods, hymenoptera, mites, ticks, etc.), Protozoa (parasitic groups) and parasitic genera in other groups, e.g. Mollusca, Turbellaria etc. Papers on the application of new techniques to taxonomic work are also acceptable.

In order to maintain high standards, all contributors describing new taxa are asked to state clearly where the holotype is deposited and to make paratypes available for examination by the referees. It is recognized that, in some cases, this may cause problems for the authors, but it is hoped that by adhering to this rule authors may be protected against rapid synonymization of their taxa, and the types preserved for posterity.

All contributions should be in the English language.

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PARASITOLOGY

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
PITTILO, R. M. and BALL, S. J. Electron microscopy of <i>Eimeria acervulina</i> macrogametogony and oocyst wall formation	1
CHAPMAN, H. D. <i>Eimeria tenella</i> : experimental development of resistance to monensin in the chicken	9
PANTON, LINDSEY J., KNOWLES, G. and WALLIKER, D. Studies of antigens in <i>Plasmodium yoelii</i> . I. Antigenic differences between parasite lines detected by crossed immunoelectrophoresis	17
PANTON, LINDSEY J., KNOWLES, G. and WALLIKER, D. Studies of antigens in <i>Plasmodium yoelii</i> . II. Inheritance and recombination of antigenic characters	27
RICHARDS, K. SYLVIA, ARME, C. and BRIDGES, JANINE F. <i>Echinococcus granulosus equinus</i> : variation in the germinal layer of murine hydatids and evidence of autophagy	35
BARRY, J. D. and GATHUO, H. Antigenic variation in <i>Trypanosoma vivax</i> : isolation of a serodeme	49
CRABTREE, JEAN E. and WILSON, R. A. <i>Schistosoma mansoni</i> : cellular reactions to challenge infections in the cheek pouch skin of chronically infected Chinese hamsters	59
LEITCH, B., PROBERT, A. J. and RUNHAM, N. W. The ultrastructure of the tegument of adult <i>Schistosoma haematobium</i>	71
ANDERSON, R. M. and CROMBIE, JENNY. Experimental studies of age-prevalence curves for <i>Schistosoma mansoni</i> infections in populations of <i>Biomphalaria glabrata</i>	79
BIRD, A. F. Growth and moulting in nematodes: moulting and development of the hatched larva of <i>Rotylenchulus reniformis</i>	107
CRAIG, P. S. Circulating antigens, antibodies and immune complexes in experimental <i>Taenia pisiformis</i> infections of rabbits	121
CROMPTON, D. W. T. and WARD, P. F. V. Selective metabolism of L-serine by <i>Moniliformis</i> (Acanthocephala) <i>in vitro</i>	133
WEDRYCHOWICZ, H., MACLEAN, J. M. and HOLMES, P. H. Secretory IgA responses in rats to antigens of various developmental stages of <i>Nippostrongylus brasiliensis</i>	145
SCOTT, MARILYN E. and ANDERSON, R. M. The population dynamics of <i>Gyrodactylus bullatarudis</i> (Monogenea) within laboratory populations of the fish host <i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	159
MCCALLUM, H. I. and ANDERSON, R. M. Systematic temporal changes in host susceptibility to infection: demographic mechanisms	195

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