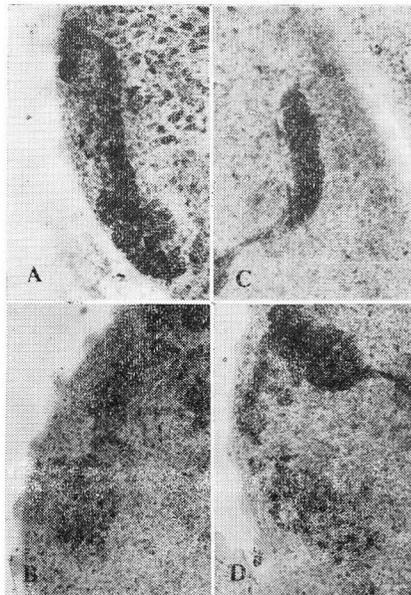
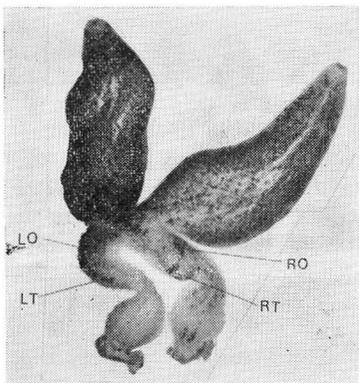


RESEARCH NOTE

An abnormal shape of reproductive organs of *Diplozoon nipponicum* GOTO, 1891 from an old carp at Lake Kasumigaura, Japan.

Single specimen of *Diplozoon nipponicum* was taken from gill of *Cyprinus carpio* at Lake Kasumigaura, Kanto vicinity, Japan on May 11, 1965. Body length of the host fish being 110 cm, the age assumed about 15 years old. Reproductive organs of *D. nipponicum* develop well in summer, in general. In this season, ova increase their number and size, and the ovary becomes larger in size and rounder in shape, thus in all cases many eggs are observed in uterus. Though the body size of the present parasite is normal (4.46 mm, 6.14 mm in anterior part; 4.06 mm in both posterior part), the shape of ovary is abnormal, namely slender and straight. The distal end of the left side ovary is slightly curved backwards and its proximal end overlapping the lobes of testis ventrally. The size of the left side ovary is 725 μ in length and 75 μ in width,

while in the right side one is 350 μ long by 75 μ wide. Ova are discoide in shape, not round, and piled up each other anteriorly and posteriorly in the ovary. Many fishes examined by the author up to date from the same locality were at most two to three years old, consequently all examined *D. nipponicum* harbored on these fishes are to be younger than those of the host fishes. The author can not determine the age of the present parasite but assuming that it would be one of the oldest worm whose ovary being degenerated by the age. BYCHOWSKY (1957) stated on *D. paradoxum* that it begins to lay eggs only in its second year and apparently lived not less than a year of the first laying. The age limit and nature of alternation on reproductive organs occurred in the survived worm are of interest to resolve in future.



Entire worm, dorsal view. A. Left side ovary (LO). B. Left side testis (LT). C. Right side ovary (RO). D. Right side testis (RT).

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