

RESEARCH NOTE.....

***Cryptocotyle lingua* (CREPLIN) from the Red Fox
Vulpes vulpes schrencki KISHIDA**

A total of 24 heterophyid trematodes, *Cryptocotyle lingua* (CREPLIN, 1825), were collected from the small intestines of two red foxes, *Vulpes vulpes schrencki* KISHIDA 1924, captured at Tokoro and Yambetsu near Abashiri City, Hokkaido, in autumn, 1970. Unfortunately the trematodes were all dead and somewhat degenerated.

These trematodes have been obtained from various fish-eating birds and mammals in Europe, USSR, North America and Japan. The snail, first intermediate host, is *Littorina littoria*. The second intermediate hosts are numerous shore fishes, *Gobius*, *Osmerus*, *Pholis*, *Tautoga*, *Tautogolabrus*, etc., where the metacercariae encyst

in the skin.

In Japan, YAMAGUTI (1939) and YOSHIMURA (1965) collected this trematode from the herring gull, *Larus argentatus vegae*, at Obama, Fukui Prefecture, and from the stray dog on Rebun Island, Hokkaido, respectively. Comparison of the dimensions among Japanese specimens of *C. lingua* is made as shown in Table 1. The present specimens are slightly smaller than the other two, however, there is little difference in egg sizes among the three. In addition, testes of the present specimens are incised more deeply than those of the other two, therefore, testes of the present specimens resemble LINTON's ones (1915).

Table 1. Dimensions of *Cryptocotyle lingua* from Japan (μ)

	YAMAGUTI (1939)	YOSHIMURA (1965)	Present authors
Host	<i>Larus argentatus vegae</i>	Stray dog	<i>Vulpes vulpes schrencki</i>
Locality	Obama, Fukui Prefecture	Rebun Island, Hokkaido	Tokoro & Yambetsu, Hokkaido
Body length	1,900-3,100	2,839	1,190-1,770
Body width	600-770	972	570-670
Oral sucker	75-100×84-105	134	58-63×63-75
Pharynx	60-88×54-75	95-104	63-75×43-63
Esophagus	60-110	112	48-100
Acetabulum	60-90	112-126	63-93
Testes	280-600×180-380	275-324×421-480	110-210×220-320
Ovary	300-350	243	43-50×220
Seminal receptacle	130-210	—	100-200
Eggs	42-48×19-22	39-42×20-22	40-45×21-23

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Yukitoshi KITAMURA (Muroran Health Center, Hokkaido) and Masaaki MACHIDA (Department of Zoology, National Science Museum, Tokyo)

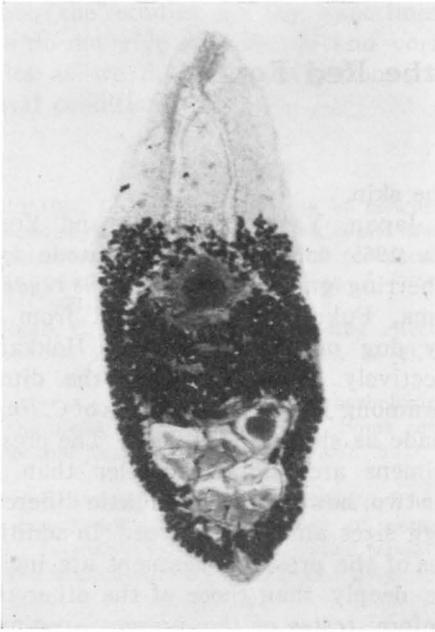


Fig. 1. *Cryptocotyle lingua* from the red fox in Hokkaido (dorsal view)

YOSHIMURA (1965) supposed that the oc-

currence of infection in stray dog was due mainly to ingestion of the infested fish, especially since there were many opportunities for such ingestion on Rebun Island. The red foxes, from which the present specimens were obtained, were captured in the coastal region of the Okhotsk Sea and the infection seems to be by eating the infested fish which the fishermen have thrown away on the seashore, because the fox does not have the habit of catching fish.

REFERENCES

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