RESEARCH NOTE

An apharyngeal, furcocercous Cercaria from *Lymnaea natalensis* in Ethiopia

In a program of investigation of schistosomiasis in Ethiopia, a large number of snails have been collected from many lakes and streams, and examined for trematode infections.

A species of apharyngeal, furcocercous cercaria was obtained from *Lymnaea natalensis*. The cercaria was found only in a single locality, a small pond near Bonga, Kaffa Province. (Fig. 1) Of 450 snails collected in July and August, 1969, four (0.63%) were found infected with the cercaria.

The cercariae are oculate and furcocercous. (Fig. 2) The head organ occupies almost the first third of the body. The acetabulum is situated in the posterior part of the body. Tail stem is slightly longer than the body. Dorsoventral fin folds are present on the furcae. Two pigmented eye spots are found between the head organ and the acetabulum on the dorsal side. There are five pairs of unicellular penetration glands, two anterior with coarse granules and three posterior with fine granules. The flame cell pattern consists of 6 pairs in the body and 1 pair in the proximal portion of the tail stem.

Thus, the flame cells formula is $2[3+3+(1)]=14$.

The measurements were made of 10 specimens fixed in 10% formalin: body, 342.1 by 69.3 μ; head organ, 111.6 by 50.3 μ; tail stem, 447.8 by 45.4 μ; furcal length, 271.7 by 32.0 μ. Acetabulum is 29.0 μ in diameter and the distance of anterior

Fig. 1. Map of Ethiopia showing the site where the cercariae were collected

Fig. 2 Cercaria

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end of body to acetabulum is 236.2 μ.

On morphological grounds, the cercaria is considered to belong to the genus of the Family Schistosomatidae and resembles very closely to those of the "ocellata group" in the genus *Trichobilharzia*.

There are no reported cases in human of avian cercarial dermatitis in Ethiopia. These facts indicated the possibility of dermatitis in human being caused by schistosome cercariae.

**REFERENCES**

