Research note

Parasitic nematodes from *Simulium japonicum* and *S. bidentatum*

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Larvae of *Simulium japonicum* collected on August 1, 1977 and larvae of *S. japonicum* and *S. (Gnus) bidentatum* collected on May 31, 1977, from Kagoshima, were found parasitized by nematodes (Fig. 3).

The nematodes were identified as belonging to the family Mermithidae, and all appeared to be the same species. However, since only parasitic and postparasitic juveniles were present, it was not possible to assign a genus to the nematode, since adult characters are required for further identification.

However, this report establishes a new host record of mermithid parasitism in these 2 simuliid species. The postparasitic juvenile mermithids can often be recognized by the shape and length of their tail appendage. Such is the case with the mermithid parasite of *S. japonicum* and *S. bidentatum*. The tail appendage is very long and thin and is constricted at the base (Fig. 1). It is very fragile and in some specimens was completely missing, thus giving the tail tip a nipple appearance (Fig. 2). This feature is uncommon among mermithid nematodes and should enable this species to be recognized when it is recovered again. The specimens observed here possessed a terminal mouth, 6 head papillae and small cup shaped amphids located in the neck region. A complete description will be published when the adult nematodes are obtained.

Fig. 1 Long terminal tail appendage on tip of postparasitic juvenile mermithid that emerged from *Simulium japonicum*.

Fig. 2 Tip of postparasitic juvenile mermithid that emerged from *Simulium japonicum*. Note shedding of long terminal appendage.

Fig. 3 Larvae of *Simulium japonicum* infected with a mermithid nematode.

摘 要

アシマダラブユとキアシツメトゲブユ
幼虫に見いだされた寄生線虫
Mermithidae について

鹿児島市三取合の同一水系より採集した *Simulium japonicum* (1977年5月と8月に採集) と *S. bidentatum* (1977年8月に採集) の幼虫に寄生していた線虫は parasitic および postparasitic stage の形態から Mermithidae の種類であることが判明した。

本線虫の adult stage が未採集のため本種の属・種は未同定であるが, Mermithidae の新宿主として上記2種ブユを報告する。

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