

# First record in Spain of *cycloprimum exile* witenberg, 1923, a digenean trematode parasite in the peritoneal cavity of *turdus philomelos*

Primera cita en España de *Cycloprimum exile* Witenberg, 1923, trematodo digénido, parásito de la cavidad peritoneal de *Turdus philomelos*

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## ABSTRACT

The presence of the species of trematode *Cycloprimum exile* has been detected, in Spain, for the first time. Specimens were collected from *Turdus philomelos* captured in the Alpujarra, region of Granada (Southern Spain). The morphology of this species is briefly described.

**Key words:** *Cycloprimum exile*. Trematodo digenético. Cyclocoelidae. *Turdus philomelos*. Spain.

## RESUMEN

Se detecta, por primera vez en España, la presencia de trematodos de la especie *Cycloprimum exile*. Los ejemplares se recogieron de *Turdus philomelos* capturados en La Alpujarra (Granada, Sur de España). Se describe, brevemente, la morfología de esta especie de trematodo.

**Palabras clave:** *Cycloprimum exile*. Trematodo digenético. Cyclocoelidae. *Turdus philomelos*. Spain.

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A study is being carried out on intestinal helminthic parasites in birds of the genus *Turdus* (*T. philomelos*, *T. iliacus*, *T. viscivorus* and *T. merula*) which were shot during the hunting season (November 1994 to February 1995), in The Alpujarra region of Granada province.

After dissecting the animals in order to obtain the intestinal tract, 14 speci-

mens of platyhelminths were found in the peritoneal cavity, near of the rectum and cloaca of a male *T. philomelos*, which were stained with boracic carmine and identified as nongravid specimen of trematodes of the Cyclocoelidae family, genus *Cycloprimum* and species *Cycloprimum exile* (Stossich, 1902) Witenberg, 1923 (Yamaguti (1,2,3) and Dubois (4)).

As can be seen in Figure 1, this trematode has a linguiform body, dorsoventrally flattened with an almost uniform width along the final two thirds, which decreases towards the front. It is approximately 3 mm long and has a maximum width of 0,9 mm.

The oral sucker is located at the terminal point of the frontal part. It has a diameter of 0,06 mm, visibly less than the ventral sucker or acetabulum (0,2 mm in diameter) located in a subterminal position.

The mouth continues with a short muscular pharynx and a short oesophagus which connects with the short intestines, consisting of two lateral tubes which run parallel along the full length of the body until they join below the testicles. There is, therefore, a short intestine without diverticles.

Two spherical testicles measuring 0,1 mm in diameter can be observed on the rear half of the body, placed in a slanting position and located at the rear, directly above the caecal arch. The front testicle is separated from the rear by the ovary and a uterus. The ovary, with a diameter of 0,09 mm, is located precisely between the testicles. The uterus traces a spiral shape from the ootype to the front of the body where its form becomes less of a zig-zag, roughly following the line of the body to terminate in the genital pore, ventrally placed near the end of the pharynx. Vitellaria extend along the sides of the body, separated by the intestinal ceca.

After consulting the Index Catalogue of Iberian Animal Parasites (Cordero del Campillo et al. (5)), it has been possible to confirm that this species has not been cited in Spain neither as a parasite of *Turdus philomelos* nor any other host.

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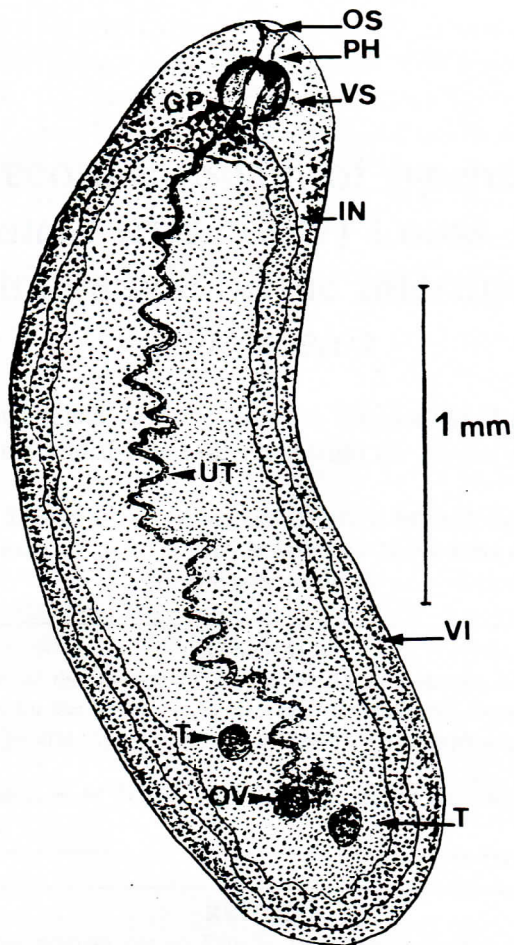


Fig. 1.—*Cycloprimum exile* in *Turdus philomelos*. OS, oral sucker; PH, pharynx; IN, intestine; GP, genital pore; VS, ventral sucker (acetabulum); T, testis; OV, ovary; VI, vitellarium (vitellary glands); UT, uterus.