


Protancyrocephaloides liopsettae gen. et sp. n. (Monopisthocotylea: Dactylogyridae) from Smooth Flounder, Liopsetta putnami (Gill)

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ABSTRACT: Protancyrocephaloides liopsettae gen. et sp. n. (Ancyrocephalinae) is described from the gills of smooth flounder, Liopsetta putnami (Gill), from New Hampshire. The species is most similar to Protancyrocephalus Bychowsky, 1957, from which it is separated by the presence of a ventral bar. The affinities of the two genera are examined.
tioned at seven microns. Measurements (as described by Mizelle, 1962) were made with an ocular micrometer and are in microns unless otherwise stated. Averages are followed by ranges in parentheses. Illustrations were prepared with the aid of a camera lucida.

**Protancyrocephaloides gen. n.**

**Diagnosis:** Dactylogyridae, Ancyrocephalinae. Bilobed opisthaptor distinct; two pairs of similar anchors, ventral pair connected by delicate bar; fourteen marginal hooks, distribution ancyrocephaline (Mizelle, 1936). Four eyes; six head organs. Pharynx prominent. Intestinal crura simple, confluent posteriorly. Testis ovoid, postovarian. Vas deferens looping around the left intestinal cirrus; seminal vesicle present. Simple tubular cirrus, accessory piece absent; genital pore immediately postbifurcal. Ovary ovoid, eggs with polar filament. Vitellaria well developed, extending from level of pharynx to beyond posterior confluence of intestine. Vagina dextroventral, leading to seminal receptacle. Parasitic on gills of marine (estuarine) teleosts. Type and only species.

**Protancyrocephaloides liopsettae** sp. n.

**Figures 1–6**

**Host and Locality:** Liopsetta putnami (Gill), Great Bay estuary, New Hampshire.

**Location on Host:** Gills.

**Specimens Studied:** 78 (20 measured).

**Type Specimens:** USNM Helm. Coll. Holo

type No. 74608, paratypes No. 74609. Additional paratypes in the author’s collection.


**Discussion**

**Protancyrocephaloides** occupies a morphological position intermediate between Halotrema Johnson and Tieg's 1922, and Protan- cyrocephalus Bychowsky, 1957, which possess two and zero hapto lar bars, respectively, and are otherwise very similar. Of other ancyrocephalid genera having a single bar, only Parancyrocephaloides Yamaguti, 1938, is comparable to Protancyrocephaloides. The two are easily separated, however, since the vas deferens of Parancyrocephaloides does not loop around an intestinal limb, and its testis is conspicuously folded.

The relationship of Protancyrocephaloides and Protan- cyrocephalus is worthy of further mention. The latter genus is known only from Figure 46 (whole animal) and scattered text references and figures of Protancyrocephalus strelkovi in Bychowsky's (1957) monograph. The specimens on which this description was based were collected from Limanda aspera and "several" other members of the Pleuro- nectidae from South Sakhalin (region of Yablochnoi) and the Island of Shikotan, both on the east coast of the Soviet Union. On the basis of Bychowsky's figure, Yamaguti (1963) gave a diagnosis for Protancyrocephalus. Although Yamaguti stated that "Bychowsky's detailed original description was not available," there is no indication in the literature that such a description was ever published. According to Lebedev (1976, personal communication), there is no known formal description and there
are no type specimens at the Zoological Institute in Leningrad, where Bychowsky's collection is kept. The limited material in the Bychowsky monograph, however, does constitute a valid species description according to the International Rules of Nomenclature, although it precludes any detailed comparison with other species.

The only definite differences between *Protancyrocephalus* and *Protancyrocephaloides* are those of specific significance (overall size, relative size of testis, extent of vitellarium), the number of head organs, plus the presence in *Protancyrocephaloides* of the ventral bar. This bar, moreover, is difficult to discern in balsam mounted specimens, and fades completely from view in certain aqueous media. The two genera are the only members of the subfamily found parasitic on fishes from other than the orders Perciformes and Cypriniformes (Bychowsky, 1957), and are in fact both specific for the Pleuronectidae.

Morphological and host occurrence data indicate that *Protancyrocephalus* and *Protancyrocephaloides* are closely allied. On the basis of current knowledge, the genera are best considered to be distinct. Reexamination of *Protancyrocephalus* is desirable, however, both to extend our limited knowledge of the genus and to facilitate taxonomic comparisons.

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**Literature Cited**


**Errata**


1) p. 180 Table 1 column BL, 1st line should be 4.54.

2) p. 182 column 2, line 1 should be July 1975.

3) p. 184 column 1, line 13 should be (> 1:5).