

*Rhinobatonchocotyle pacifica* n. sp. (CERCOMEROMORPHAE: MONOGENEA: HEXABOTHRIIDAE) PARASITE OF *Rhinobatos planiceps* (RHINOBATIDAE) FROM NORTHERN CHILE.

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ABSTRACT: Oliva, M. E & J.L. Luque. 1995. *Rhinobatonchocotyle pacifica* n. sp. (Cercomeromorphae: Monogenea: Hexabothriidae) parasite of *Rhinobatos planiceps* (Rhinobatidae) from northern Chile. Revista de Biología Marina, Valparaíso, 30(1):1-5. A new monogenetic species *Rhinobatonchocotyle pacifica* (Hexabothriidae) gill parasite of the guitar-fish *Rhinobatos planiceps* (Rhinobatidae) from northern Chilean coast, is described, illustrated and compared with the only known species of the genus.

Key words: Monogenea; new species; *Rhinobatonchocotyle*; marine fishes.

RESUMEN: Oliva, M. E & J.L. Luque. 1995. *Rhinobatonchocotyle pacifica* n. sp. (Cercomeromorphae: Monogenea: Hexabothriidae) parásito de *Rhinobatos planiceps* (Rhinobatidae) del norte de Chile. Revista de Biología Marina, Valparaíso, 30(1): 1-5. Se describe una nueva especie de Monogeneo. *Rhinobatonchocotyle pacifica*, parásito branquial del pez guitarra *Rhinobatos planiceps* (Rhinobatidae) en aguas del norte de Chile. Esta nueva especie es ilustrada y comparada con la única especie del género conocida hasta ahora.

Palabras Claves: Monogenea; nueva especie; *Rhinobatonchocotyle*; peces marinos.

## INTRODUCTION

Parasitic monogenea from Chilean elasmobranch, remain practically unknown. *Microbothrium tolloii* described by Brinkmann (1952), parasite of *Mustelus edulis* is the only known species. In this article, the new species *Rhinobatonchocotyle pacifica*, parasite of the gills of the guitar-fish *Rhinobatos planiceps* is described. *Rhinobatonchocotyle pacifica* is the second described species in this genus.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

Three fishes were caught-out with gill nets in the vicinity of Caleta Constitución, northern Chile (23° 28' S 70°36' W). Monogeneans were removed from the gills, fixed in 70° ethanol and stained with Semichon's carmine or Delafield's haematoxylin and mounted in Canada Balsam. Illustrations were made with the aid of a camera lucida. Measures were taken with a reticulate eye piece and are given in milime-

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ters (mean plus range in parenthesis). The measurements of haptoral suckers and sclerites follow Boeger *et al.* (1989). Holotype and paratypes were deposited in the United States National Museum Helminthological Collection (USNMHC).

## RESULTS

*Rhinobatonchocotyle pacifica* n. sp.

TYPE HOST : *Rhinobatos planiceps* Garman.  
(Rhinobatidae)

SITE OF INFECTION : Gills.

TYPE LOCALITY : Antofagasta.

HOLOTYPE : USNMHC 82032

PARATYPE : USNMHC 82033, 82037

DESCRIPTION: (based on 11 specimens stained and mounted). With the characteristics of *Rhinobatonchocotyle* Doran, 1953. Body fusiform 5.7 (3.6-9.3) in total length. Body (Fig. 1), excluding the posthaptor, uniform in width, posthaptor narrower than body proper. Maximum width 0.95 (0.7-1.2). Posthaptor normally curved, about 1/3 of the total length of the body. Prohaptor with one sucker, wider than long, 0.24 (0.13-0.29) width by 0.15 (0.13-0.20) long. Posthaptor armed with six apparently sclerotized sucker of different size. Each one armed with a curved and strong sclerite, (Sucker and sclerite measurements are given in table I). The orientation of the curved portion of each hooks are altered (Fig. 2). Posthaptor with a terminal lappet armed with two sucker and two larval hooks. Larval hooks 0.058 in long (Fig.3).

Mouth open at the end of the oral sucker, continues immediately with a muscular pharynx. Intestinal bifurcation anterior to the genital pore. Intestinal caeca runs laterally and anastomosing at the posterior end of the

body, before the posthaptor. Caeca confluent posteriorly, reaching the posterior end of the posthaptor.

Male reproductive system include 31-42 testes, irregular in size and shape, postovarian, reaching the posterior end of the body, before the cecal confluency. Vas deferens sinuous, just before the genital pore, vas deferens originate two cycles of two bifurcations that in turns joint together (Fig. 4). Female reproductive system includes ovary, irregular in shape, deeply lobed, posterior end recurved as an inverted "J". Vitelline ducts joint the oviduct when its ascend. Oviduct originated from the smaller arm of the ovary. Two ventro-lateral vaginae opens at level of genital pore. From each vaginal aperture, forms a duct, that fused each one and posteriorly originated a bifurcation and conform, at level of the seminal receptacle two vitelo-vaginal ducts. Posteriorly, the duct fused, again, and conform the vitelline receptacle. Eggs yellow, 0.138 in long by 0.057 wide excluded polar filament. Polar filament 0.15 in long.

## DISCUSSION

The genus *Rhinobatonchocotyle* was erected by Doran (1953) for the new species *Rhinobatonchocotyle ciclovaginata*. New species has not been added to the genus since it was erected. Yamaguti (1958) and Euzet & Maillard (1974), mentioned the species without new material and reinterpretation of Doran (1953) descriptions were made, for instance, according to Doran the eggs are not armed with polar filaments, but Euzet & Maillard (1974) claim that the eggs bears polar filaments.

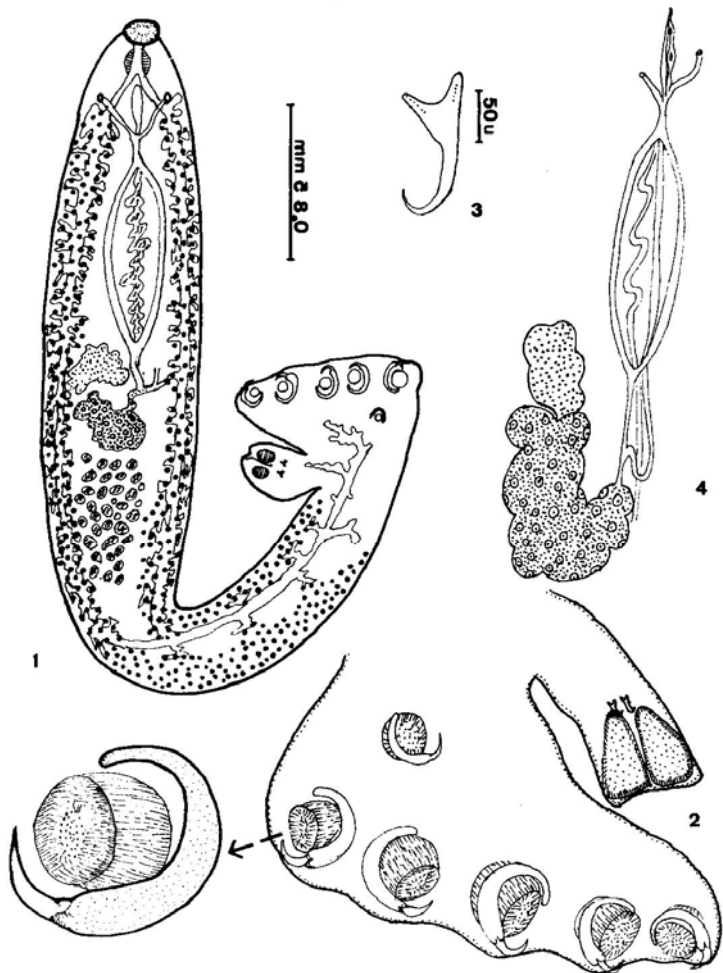


Fig. 1.- Holotype, ventral view. Fig. 2.-Posthaptor. Fig. 3.- Larval hook. Fig. 4.- Female reproductive system

Table I.- Haptor sucker diameter and sclerite measurements.

Diametro de las ventosas del haptor y medidas de la esclerita.

Sucker	Mean diameter	Rande	
1	0.119	0.097 - 0.13	
2	0.131	0.1 - 0.17	
3	0.143	0.107 - 0.17	
4	0.135	0.095 - 0.16	
5	0.135	0.095 - 0.17	
6	0.125	0.097 - 0.17	

Sclerite	total	shaft	point
1	0.179	0.041	0.056
2	0.201	0.044	0.060
3	0.240	0.053	0.085
4	0.239	0.058	0.082
5	0.226	0.042	0.082
6	0.162	0.033	0.068

We accept the criteria of the original descriptor. Main difference between *R. ciclovaginata* and the species now described includes the extension of the vitellaria in adult specimens, that invade the posthaptor in *R. ciclovaginata*, but do not reach it in *R. pacifica*. The posthaptoral suckers and hooks are of similar size in Doran's specimens but

different in the new species. The hooks of the sucker of *R. ciclovaginata* are smooth instead with knobs in the species now described. Others minor differences are related with the size of the worms (*R. ciclovaginata* is the smaller) and structure of larval hooks.

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