NOTE BREVI - SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

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BASIROLAIMUS SHAMSI, 1979, A JUNIOR SYNONYM
OF HOPLOLAIMUS VON DADAY, 1905 (NEMATODA: TYLENCHIDA)

by
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In the family Hoplolaimidae Filipjev, 1934 genera with unusually large phasmids, called scutella, constitute a group well separated from other genera. These genera are usually considered (Andrassy, 1976) as constituting by themselves the subfamily Hoplolaimidae Filipjev, 1934. Until recently, this subfamily included only four genera: Hoplolaimus von Daday, 1905, Scutellonema Andrassy, 1958, Aorolaimus Sher, 1963 and Peltamigratus Sher, 1963. These four genera are distinguished from each other, mainly by the position of the scutella. In Scutellonema both scutella are opposite, or nearly so, and situated on the tail. In Peltamigratus, the scutella are both situated between vulva and anus, but they are not opposite. In Hoplolaimus (with some exceptions; see below) and Aorolaimus one scutellum is located anterior to the vulva and the second between the vulva and anus. Hoplolaimus and Aorolaimus are mainly separated by the structures of the head region, in Hoplolaimus the labial area is prominent, well set-off, with pronounced transverse striation and a more discrete complete or incomplete longitudinal striation, the cephalic framework is heavily sclerotized, the spear is strong, with large knobs showing well developed anterior process(es); in contrast, in Aorolaimus the labial area is not so prominent and usually not well set-off, the cephalic framework is less sclerotized, the stylet is weaker with less massive and rounded basal knobs devoid of anterior processes. Although Hoplolaimus forms an homogeneous group easily distinguish-
ed from other genera the species in it show variations in some anatomo-morphological characters:

— number of oesophageal gland nuclei: some species have the usual number of three, but five or six are present in the majority of species (the number of five observed in some species may be due to difficulty in locating the sixth nucleus);
— the number of lateral lines at mid-body may vary from none to four;
— a post-rectal intestine sac may be present or not in the females;
— both the scutella may exceptionnally be located anterior to (H. puertoricensis Ramirez, 1964) or posterior to the vulva (H. californicus Sher, 1963).

It is evident that the last three of these variations are insignificant and must be regarded only as specific and not generic characters. However, variation in the number of oesophageal gland nuclei requires further consideration.

The genus *Basirolaimus* Shamsi, 1979, with *B. seinhorsti* (Luc, 1958) Shamsi, 1979 as type species, was recently proposed to accommodate species with six (or five?) oesophageal nuclei. The species with three nuclei were left in the genus *Hoplolaimus*. The author also described a new species, *B. sacchari* Shamsi, 1979.

It is difficult to consider as valid a genus established on such a unique character. The presence of six oesophageal gland nuclei is not a primary characteristic as it involves a simple duplication of the original number. Thus it can be considered as an intra-generic variation in the genus *Hoplolaimus*. To increase, rather artificially, the number of genera by reducing each of them to a very restricted number of species which are similar to each other, neither serves the purpose of determination nor is it helpful in understanding relationships at the generic level.

Thus, I believe that *Basirolaimus* Shamsi, 1979 must be considered a junior synonym of *Hoplolaimus* von Daday, 1905. Consequently the species listed in this genus have to be transferred back to *Hoplolaimus* as follows:

*Hoplolaimus seinhorsti* Luc, 1958

= *Basirolaimus seinhorsti* (Luc, 1958) Shamsi, 1979
H. columbus Sher, 1963  
= B. columbus (Sher, 1963) Shamsi 1979

H. indicus Sher, 1963  
= B. indicus (Sher, 1963) Shamsi, 1979

H. aegypti Shafee et Koura, 1969  
= B. aegypti (Shafee et Koura, 1969) Shamsi, 1979

H. chambus Jairajpuri et Baqri, 1973  
= B. chambus (Jairajpuri et Baqri, 1973) Shamsi, 1979

H. clarissimus Fortuner, 1973  
= B. clarissimus (Fortuner, 1973) Shamsi, 1979

H. cephalus Mulk et Jairajpuri, 1976  
= B. cephalus (Mulk et Jairajpuri, 1973) Shamsi, 1979

H. dimorphicus Mulk et Jairajpuri, 1976  
= B. dimorphicus (Mulk et Jairajpuri, 1976) Shamsi, 1979

H. seshadrii Mulk et Jairajpuri, 1976  
= B. seshadrii (Mulk et Jairajpuri, 1976) Shamsi, 1979

Note that the three species H. puertoricensis Ramirez, 1964, H. sheri Suryawanshi, 1971 and H. dubius Chaturvedi, Singh et Khera in Chaturvedi et Khera, 1979, although having five or six nuclei in the oesophageal lobe, have not been taken into consideration by Shamsi (1979).

Hoplolaimus sacchari (Shamsi, 1979) nov. comb. (= Basiroliamus sacchari Shamsi, 1979) appears to be a valid species, differing from all the species of the genus except H. clarissimus by the combination of six oesophageal nuclei and four lines in the lateral field. From this last species H. sacchari differs by a number of characters: lip differently shaped with a few longitudinal striations, spear notably shorter, absence of epiptygma.

LITERATURE CITED


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