First Record in Puerto Rico of *Spinitectus agonostomi* (Nematoda: Cystidicolidae) from the Mountain Mullet (*Agonostomus monticola*)

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Fourteen mountain mullets (*Agonostomus monticola* (Bancroft, 1836)) collected by backpack electrofishing in Río Cañas, near Ponce, Puerto Rico, on 18 June 1996 were examined for nematodes. Seven fishes contained 12 mature and 10 immature female and 12 mature male nematodes in the intestine. These were fixed in steaming acetic alcohol (1 part glacial acetic acid and 3 parts 95% ethanol) and cleared for study in glycerine. The specimens were identified as *Spinitectus agonostomi* Moravec and Barus, 1971.

Because of the sparsity of morphological data, it seems advisable to include additional measurements in the present report. Measurements are in micrometers unless otherwise indicated, the range being followed by the mean in parentheses. Morphological dimensions are: female (N = 10), Body 5.6 mm to 7.3 mm (6.2 mm) long by 158 to 190 (179) wide; pharynx 77 to 110 (80); muscular esophagus 176 to 248 (231); glandular esophagus 506 to 671 (660); first circle of spines, nerve ring and excretory pore 90 to 114 (110), 80 to 130 (120) and 252 to 286 (270) from anterior end, respectively; tail 176 to 230 (228); vulva 1.8 mm to 2.4 mm (1.9 mm) from anterior end; eggs 32 to 36 (35) long by 26 to 31 (30) wide; male (N = 8), Body 4.5 mm to 5.1 mm (4.2 mm long by 108 to 110 (108) wide; pharynx 27 to 90 (88); muscular esophagus 231 to 300 (238); glandular esophagus 506 to 561 (560); nerve ring 152 to 165 (162) from anterior end; larger spicule 1.1 mm to 1.3 mm (1.3 mm), smaller spicule 77 to 88 (78); tail 150 to 165 (152).

This nematode was described by Moravec and Barus (1971) on the basis of one male found in the intestine of one of seven *A. monticola* from Rio Guajaybon (province Habana) Cuba. Petter et al. (1977) described both sexes of *Spinitectus agonostomi* from the intestine of seven *A. monticola* from Guadeloupe (Caribbean Islands). Our males concur with the description of the male as given by Moravec and Barus (1971). However, our males possess seven pairs of post cloacal papillae, as described by Petter et al. (1977), rather than six pairs as reported by Moravec and Barus (1971). Our females concur with the description given by Petter et al (1977).

The mountain mullet ranges from southeastern United States (North Carolina to Texas), Mexico, Central America, and the West Indies, south to northern South America (Colombia and Venezuela). It is one of the few mugilids in the tropics capable of ascending streams to their headwaters (Gilbert and Kelso, 1971). Since the distribution of a host is the potential range of its parasites, one would expect that this nematode will be reported from several geographic areas. This nematode may also occur in other species of fish and the mountain mullet may bridge the ecological gap between this nematode in freshwater and marine fishes of coastal waters.

The finding of *S. agonostomi* in *A. monticola* in Puerto Rico constitutes the third report of this parasite in this host and represents a new locality record. Voucher specimens have been deposited in the U.S. National Parasite Collection, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Maryland and designated by the accession number USNPC 87160.

**LITERATURE CITED**

