

## THE NEMATODE GENUS *DELETROCEPHALUS* DIESING, 1851.

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The genus *Deletrocephalus* was placed in the sub-family Trichoneminae by Baylis and Daubney (1926), but they state it is insufficiently described. Yorke and Maplestone (1926) placed it amongst a group of Strongyloidea insufficiently described to be more definitely classified.

Maplestone (1932) described a worm from the south American ostrich (*Rhea americana*) which he named *Quasistrongylus rhae* gen. et sp. nov. Travassos (1933) described a worm from the same host which he identified as *Deletrocephalus dimidiatus* Diesing, 1851. Comparison of Travassos' description and figures with my own leave no doubt that the two worms are identical, therefore *Quasistrongylus rhae* Maplestone, 1932 is a synonym of *Deletrocephalus dimidiatus*.

Travassos re-erected the sub-family Deletrocephalinae Railliet, 1916 to accommodate this species, but this seems unnecessary as the characters of the worm allow of its inclusion in the sub-family Strongylinae Railliet, 1893. It should be noted that Travassos says the internal leaf-crown is absent, but he figures a beaded line along the junction of the external leaf-crown and the anterior border of the buccal capsule. This is a common appearance in the case of worms with a double leaf-crown and indicates the points of origin of the internal leaf-crown. My own observations have shown that there is an internal leaf-crown composed of very numerous bristle-like elements.

It is accordingly proposed to define the genus *Deletrocephalus* as follows.

### **Deletrocephalus** Diesing, 1851.

(Syn. *Quasistrongylus* Maplestone, 1932.)

Strongylinae. Head compressed laterally; mouth directed straight forwards, elliptical with its long axis dorso-ventral, surrounded by four sub-median and two lateral papillae. Two leaf-crowns present, the external composed of six broad crescentic elements, and an internal composed of very numerous fine elements. Buccal capsule large with an undulating anterior border and several pairs of stout teeth in its depth, duct of dorsal oesophageal gland nearly reaching its anterior border. *Male*: bursal formula—ventral rays cleft, all the laterals arise from a common trunk, externo-dorsal arises from a common trunk with the dorsal, dorsal ray forked at its extremity and gives off one or two lateral branches of varying size; spicules equal and similar; gubernaculum present. *Female*: vulva opens near anus on a large prominence, oviparous.

Parasites of birds.

*Type species*.—*Deletrocephalus dimidiatus* Diesing, 1851. In *Rhea americana*.

Syn. *Strongylus dimidiatus* Schneider, 1866. *Quasistrongylus rhea* Maplestone, 1932.

The specific characters have been fully described both by Maplestone (1932) and Travassos (1933) so it is not considered worth while giving them again.

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