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ON A NEW RECORD OF MAUPASELLA NOVA CÉPEDÈ, 1910 (PROTOZOA :  
CILIATA) FROM A NEW HOST, PERIONYX EXCAVATUS  
PERRIER FROM INDIA

In India not much work has been done on the parasitic ciliates occurring in the digestive tract of oligochaetes particularly of the family Maupasellidae under order Astomatida. Only available reference in extant literature on the subject is Bhatia and Gulati (1927).

We have been engaged for some time on researches on one of the highly controversial groups of ciliates, namely, astomates, commonly found in the alimentary canal and coelome of oligochaeta. During the course of these investigations we came across one species of astomatous ciliate, namely, *Maupasella nova* Cépedè in the alimentary canal of an oligochaete, *Perionyx excavatus* Perrier, from Barrackpore near Calcutta, West Bengal, India.

Since original description on this species is inadequate, so an attempt has been made to redescribe it in the present communication. The description is based partly on the observations on the living form and partly on stained specimens. The material was fixed in Schaudinn's fluid, stained in Heidenhain's iron haematoxylin and counter stained in Eosin.

*Maupasella nova* Cépedè, 1910

1910. *Maupasella nova* Cépedè, *Zool. exp. gen.* (5), III : 408-410.

*Description* : Body ovoidal, dorsoventrally flattened ; anterior side broader, bluntly rounded. Posterior portion gradually narrowing downwards as tapering end. The ciliary lines arranged in longitudinal rows ; the cilia fine and densely formed. Contractile vacuoles eight to ten in numbers, arranged in two separate rows. The fixation apparatus triradiate. The macronucleus elongated, ribbon shaped, granular, lying four-fifth of the body ; micronucleus fusiform, placed near middle of the *M. nova*. Body measuring 60 $\mu$ m in length. Breadth, 17 $\mu$ m ant.—15 $\mu$ m post. Length of *M. nova* 48  $\mu$ m – 66 $\mu$ m.

*Material* : 5 exs. on slides ; Reg. No. Pt. 86, 87, H. A. Z. Fd. Stn., ZSI, Solan, Himachal Pradesh.

*Host* : *Perionyx excavatus* Perrier

*Locality* : Barrackpore, Dist : 24 Parganas, West Bengal. Coll. *Asim Chakrabarti* ; Date of colln. 16.4.1971.

*Remarks* : Since its discovery by Cépedè

(1910) *Maupasella nova* has been reported from three species of oligocheata, viz., *Allolobophora caliginosa* Sav. by Keilin (1920) from Paris, France and *Metaphrya posthuma* (L. Vaill), *M. hawayana* (Rosa) from Lahore, Pakistan by Bhatia & Gulati (1927). So far as we could gather, there is no other record of this rare species in available literature. Thus, the occurrence of this species from common earthworm *Perionyx excavatus* Perrier, is of considerable interest. Incidentally, this species is recorded for the first time from the host, *P. excavatus* and constitutes new record from Eastern India.

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