The cestode parasites are found in plenty in vertebrates like fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. So far very little work has been done on the cestode parasites of vertebrates in India compared to wealth of information available in the various parts of the world. In the work of cestode parasites in India, Woodland, Baylis, Southwell, Moghe, Singh, Gupta and Johri are pioneers who gave more emphasis on systematics and morphology of cestode. Among the recent workers working on taxonomy, histopathology, histochemistry and histomorphology a cestode parasites of vertebrates are Hanumantarao, Bhalerao, Siddiqui, Khambata, Subhapradha, otedar, Chisti, Nama, Capoor and Shinde.

The cestode parasites when present in these, vertebrates hosts cause serious diseases to the host. As these vertebrates like fishes, birds, and mammals, are an important source of food for human being and also have economic importance, the parasites cause many diseases when the fresh of the hosts is improperly cooked and eaten by human beings. The parasites when present, increase the rate of mortality of hosts and reduces their food values.
Keeping in mind the economic importance and food value of the vertebrates, the author has undertaken the work on Systematics and morphology of the cestode parasites of vertebrates. The author has collected many cestode parasites from various vertebrates like fishes, reptiles, birds and mammals in Marathwada region from the Jalna district.

The species of cestode parasites were preserved in 4% formalin were stained with Harris haematoxylin, cleared in xylol and mounted in D.P.X. for systematic study. The drawings are made with the aid of Camera Lucida. All the measurements are in millimeters unless otherwise indicated.

All the specimens slides are deposited in the Cestodology Laboratory of Department of Zoology, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad.


The author has tried his best to represent the numbers of maximum number of families and made detailed survey of cestode parasites from Jalna district of Maharashtra State, India.
The author is of the opinion, that the survey of cestode parasites, is just the beginning and can not be regarded as final.