PREFACE

So far very little work has been done on the cestode parasites of Birds in India, compared to the wealth of information available in the various parts of the world. In the work of the cestode parasites in India, Woodland, Baylis, Southwell, G.S. Thaper, S.N. Singh, Moghe, K.S. Singh, S.M. Ali, N.K. Gupta and G.N. Johri are the pioneers in the study of systematics and morphology of the cestodes. Along recent workers who are working on the taxonomy, histopathology, histochemistry, histomorphology of the cestode parasites of vertebrates are D.N. Potedar, K. Hanumantha Rao, Bhalerao, A.H. Siddiqui, Khambata, C.K. Subhapradha, H.S. Nama, V.N. Capoor and G.B. Shinde.

So far very little work has been done on the cestode parasites of Birds. Hence the systematics and morphology were taken in hand and the tapeworms of the Birds from various places of South India were investigated.

As the Birds (edible and common birds) carry heavy helminthic infections which reduces the food value of it and resulting in their mortality, cause
dangerous diseases to those human begins who are consuming the flesh of birds as one of the nutritious food: if flesh is not properly cooked.

These animals are highly important from the economic point of view. Birds contribute to the augmentation of the wealth of nature in forest. The beautiful chirping birds and roaming wild animals add to the beauty of our planet. There are birds sancturies in our country and millions of birds are living there. The Ghana sancturies of Bharatpur and the Sultanpur, Birds sanctuary of Haryana are some of the examples. Let us for saving this wealth of nation the study of helminth parasites is an urgent necessity to-day. Since the work on the cestode parasites of birds in India had left great deal of scope for research, this work has been undertaken.

The author has conducted many tours for the collection of cestode parasites from birds during July 1982 to September 1983. He has collected many cestode parasites from birds at Aurangabad, Paithan, Waghala (Dist. Buldhana), Madras and Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh).
The specimens of the cestode parasites were preserved in 4% formalin and some were fixed in Bouin's fluid, for the histopathological study. The cestodes were stained with Harri's Hematoxylin, Borax Caramine and Mayer's carmalum, cleared in xylol and mounted in Canada balsam for the systematic study.

The drawings are made with the aid of Camera lucida. All measurements are in millimeters unless otherwise indicated.

All the specimen sides are deposited in the cestodology laboratory, Department of Zoology, Marathwada University, Aurangabad.


The author has tried his best to represent the members of maximum number of families of cestode parasites of birds and made a detailed survey of cestode parasites from South India and particularly from Maharashtra State.

A survey of cestode parasites is just the beginning and cannot be regarded as final.