PREFACE

The cestodes are of common occurrence, in the vertebrates from the class Pisces to class Mammalia. As compared to Japan, U.S.A. and other developed countries, India ranks at the lower level, if we go through the literature of information, on cestode parasites. To begin with, basic fundamental research is necessary. Eminent personalities, who realised the importance of systematics and Morphology of cestode parasites are Moghe, Singh, Gupta, Johri belonging to India. Some Scientists are recent workers, working on Taxonomy, Histomorphology, Histochemistry, Histopathology, Neurosecretions and Biochemistry of the cestode parasites of vertebrates. To list a few are K. Hanumantharao, Siddiqui, Khambata, Subhapradha, Fotedar, Chistii, Name, Capoor and Shinde.

The cestode parasites, in the vertebrate hosts are responsible for causing many diseases, as well as when improperly cooked flesh of these vertebrates is eaten by human beings, they become harmful to man. The cestode parasites affect the health and increase the rate of mortality of host. The vertebrate hosts like fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals are important source of food for human being as well as are economically important.
Taking into the consideration, the economic importance of food value of these vertebrates, developing poultry, inland fisheries, dairy, goat and sheep farms etc., the author has undertaken the work on studies on systematics and morphology of cestode parasites of vertebrates, from Parbhani district of Maharashtra State in India. The author has tried to cover maximum places in Parbhani district, as far as collection of cestode parasites from different hosts is concerned.

The specimens, of the cestode parasites, were flattened, preserved in 4% formalin, stained with Harris haematoxylin, mounted in D.P.X. and whole mount slides were prepared, for the detail anatomical studies. The drawings are made with the aid of camera lucida. All the measurements are in millimeters, unless otherwise indicated.

All the specimen slides are deposited in the Cestodology Laboratory, Department of Zoology, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, Maharashtra State, India.

The author has tried his level best, to represent the members of maximum number of families and made detailed survey of cestode parasites from the vertebrates from different places in Parbhani district, which remained completely unexplored as far as anatomy, morphology and systematics of the cestodes is concerned.

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