Material & Methods
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The alimentary canal of the host was taken out and cut open in normal saline water in trough or petry dishes. It was lightly shaken and the contents decanted several times. The intestine and its contents containing parasites were examined thoroughly under a binocular microscope to ensure that none of the parasites are left behind. In some cases, as the scolices were deeply embedded, it was found necessary, to take them out by scraping the mucosa of the intestine with a sharp scalpel or by releasing the scolices with a pair of needles. Later, portion of the mucosa attached to the cestode body was removed by shaking the body of the cestode in the normal saline water. The worms were stretched in lukewarm water and in case of larger worms, by lifting them with the help of needles or forceps against the edges of the petry dish repeatedly for several times and later on fixed in 5% formalin or alcoholic Bouin's fluid. Worms fixed in Bouin's fluid were washed in water, 50% and stored in 70% alcohol. Fixed and washed worms were stored in 5% formaline till needed for study.

The whole mounts were stained in Mayer's Haemalum, which proved to be the best stain for cestodes. Whole mounts were either cleared
in xylol or cedar wood oil. For sectioning, the material was cleared in xylol, embedded in histowax and cut at 0.006-0.008 mm, stained with Delafield's Haematoxylin and Eosin and mounted in D.P.X.. The worms have also been studied in living condition. Only camera lucida drawings were made. All the measurements have been given in millimetres unless stated otherwise. Averages taken on the basis of the study of 5 to 10 worms, except in cases where still fewer worms were obtained.

During the course of study the total number of hosts thus examined was 357. Out of them 144 hosts were found infected. The hosts examined belong to 31 species of vertebrates, which include 20 species of birds and 11 species of mammals.