

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW FILARIID WORM, *SQUAMOFILARIA CHOPRAI*, SP. NOV. (NEMATODA) FROM THE LUNG OF A SEA-TERN, FROM ADDU ATTOL, MALDIVE ISLANDS.

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A single specimen of a Filariid parasite was obtained by Major S. L. Kalra, in September 1944, from the lung of a sea-tern, from Addu Attol, Maldive Islands. It was kindly passed on to this department for study by Major Dr. M. L. Roonwal. Unfortunately, the specimen is not in a very good state of preservation; nevertheless, a study of the worm reveals that it represents a new species of the nematode genus *Squamofilaria*.

Super Family FILARIOIDEA (Weinland, 1858) Stiles, 1907

Family FILARIIDAE (Cobbold, 1864) Claus, 1885.

Sub-Family APROCTINAE Yorke and Maplestone, 1926.

Genus *Squamofilaria* Schmerling, 1925.

1926 *Coronofilaria*, Yorke and Maplestone, The Nematode Parasites of Vertebrates, London., p. 409.

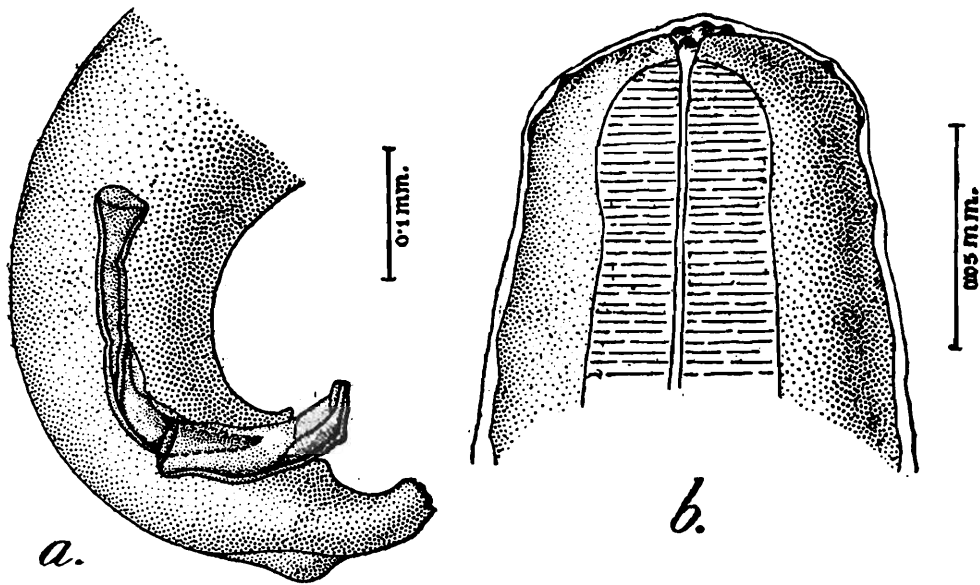
*Squamofilaria choprai*<sup>1</sup>. sp. nov.

*Specific Diagnosis*: *Squamofilaria*—with generic characters.

Body filiform, tapering at both extremities. Length about 15 mm., maximum width of body, in mid-region, about 0.3 mm. Head (Fig. 1b) round, tapering and broad; mouth surrounded by a cuticular collar, festooned to form a crown-like structure, with six small 'lips'; head papillae submedian, two pairs, rather inconspicuous; lateral papillae probably two. Cuticle very finely striated transversely, with occasional papilla-like bosses, varying much in their development, more conspicuous in posterior region, specially on ventral side. Mouth cavity small; oesophagus simple. Posterior extremity (Fig. 2a) coiled spirally; tail of male short and rounded; caudal end flat, studded with spine-like round, cuticular papillae. Male genital opening situated at a distance of about 0.09 mm. from posterior end. A large and conspicuous median papilla situated just in front of cloacal opening; a similar, but less conspicuous, median post anal papilla visible. Spicules two, subequal, thick and trough like. Anterior spicule much larger than posterior, about 0.26 mm. in length, bent like the letter L, probably with a ventral groove, its posterior extremity pointed. Posterior spicule short and stout with its posterior end bifid and spatulate, measuring

<sup>1</sup> Named after Dr. B. N. Chopra, Director, Zoological Survey of India.

0.16 mm., caudal alae absent. Lateral rows of small and oval, pigmented corpuscles, characteristic of the other two species of the genus, absent.



TEXT FIG. 1.—*Squamofilaria choprai*, sp. nov.  
a. Posterior end ; b. Anterior end of the male.

The genus *Squamofilaria* was created by Schmerling, 1925 for *Filaria coronata* Rudolphi, 1809. Yorke and Maplestone (1926) created another genus *Coronofilaria* with *C. pillersi* as the type and *C. coronata* (Rud., 1809) as the other species of the genus. They also included, with some doubt, the species *Eucamptus obtusus* Dujardin, 1845, from *Caprimulgus europoeus*, in their genus, on the ground that the generic name *Eucamptus* is preoccupied. Thus the genus *Coronofilaria* of Yorke and Maplestone falls in the synonymy of the genus *Squamofilaria*. I am also not inclined to include the species *E. obtusus* in the genus. The genus *Squamofilaria*, therefore, now contains only two previously described species: *S. coronata* (Rud., 1809) from *Coracias garrula*, type species and *S. pillersi* (Yorke & Maplestone, 1926) from the blue warbler flycatchers. The new species described above differs from the type in the nature of the mouth collar, the position of the submedian head papillae and the size and nature of the spicules. The nature of the posterior extremity is also different in the new species. *S. choprai* differs from *S. pillersi* in the nature of the mouth cavity, the size and nature of the spicules and the absence of two lateral rows of small and oval pigmented corpuscles.

Type-specimen.—W 3640/1, Zoological Survey of India.

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