STUDIES ON THE HISTORY AND CLASSIFICATION OF THE FAMILY ECHINOSTOMATIDAE WITH REDESCRIPTION OF ECHINOSTOMA BANCROFTI FROM FULICA ATRA, THE FIRST RECORD FROM INDIA

V. K. Kharoo
Department of Zoology, University of Allahabad, Allahabad - 211 002. India.
email : kharoolg@gmail.com
(Accepted 25 April 2013)

ABSTRACT: The Echinostomatidae is a large group of Digenetic trematodes parasitizing a large group of vertebrates all over the world. Despite availability of a vast literature on the family, confusion still prevails on the position of several genera. Several eminent helminthologists viz., Dietz (1909,1910), Odhner (1911), Travassos (1922), Faust (1929), Mendheim (1943), Skrjabin et al (1956), Ben Dawes (1948), Yamaguti (1948), Kostadinova (2005) and others have contributed enormously to our knowledge of this group of parasites. Apart from history and classification of the family, human Echinostomiasis caused by heavy infection of certain Echinostomes has also been discussed. A redescription of Echinostoma bancrofti Johnston (1928) based on the newly collected specimens from a new host Fulica atra is also given which is the first record from India.

Key words: Trematode, Echinostomatidae, Echinostomum, Fulica atra.