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# The deep-sea fish digenean genus *Tellervotrema* Gibson & Bray, 1982 (Opecoelidae: Plagioporinae): Re-evaluation of the type species, *T. armstrongi* Gibson & Bray, 1982 and *T. beringi* (Mamaev, 1965)

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## Abstract

*Tellervotrema* Gibson & Bray, 1982 (Digenea: Opecoelidae) was erected for *Podocotyle*-like species that possess a symmetrical pair of isolated groups of vitelline follicles in the posterior forebody, lack them dorsal to the caeca and parasitize archybenthal macrourid fishes. *Tellervotrema armstrongi* Gibson & Bray, 1982 is redescribed from the type host, the common Atlantic grenadier, *Nezumia aequalis* (Günther), *N. cyrano* Marshall & Iwamoto, and from an unidentified macrourid collected from the northern Gulf of Mexico. *Tellervotrema beringi* (Mamaev, 1965) is redescribed from the giant grenadier, *Albatrossia pectoralis* (Gilbert), and *Coryphaenoides* sp. obtained from off Oregon. The following six features are suggested to distinguish *T. armstrongi* and *T. beringi*: egg size; position of the genital pore; posterior extent of the cirrus-sac relative to the ventral sucker; testes volume relative to hindbody size; anterior extent of the paired vitelline groups in the forebody; and geographic locality. The generic diagnosis of *Tellervotrema* is amended to include circumcaecal vitelline follicles, and the presence of the vitelline gap itself was found to be a more consistent diagnostic generic character than the location of the resulting pair of distinct, isolated groups of vitelline follicles created by the gap. A neotype and paraneotypes are designated for *T. beringi*. The following new host and locality records are established: first original report of *T. armstrongi* from *N. cyrano*; first report of a member of *Tellervotrema* from the giant grenadier, *A. pectoralis*; and the waters off Oregon are a new locality record for *Tellervotrema*, a genus in the North Pacific Ocean known only from the Bering Sea and off Japan. A comprehensive listing of all parasites previously reported from the four macrourid species examined herein is given and intermediate hosts are postulated through which species of *Tellervotrema* may complete their life cycles in the deep.

**Key words:** *Albatrossia pectoralis*, *Coryphaenoides* sp., deep sea, Digenea, Gulf of Mexico, Macrouridae, *Nezumia aequalis*, *Nezumia cyrano*, Opecoelidae, Oregon, Plagioporinae, redescription, *Tellervotrema armstrongi*, *Tellervotrema beringi*

## Introduction

Gibson & Bray (1982) erected the trematode genus *Tellervotrema* Gibson & Bray, 1982 for *Podocotyle*-like species that possess a symmetrical pair of isolated groups of vitelline follicles in the posterior forebody, lack them dorsal to the caeca and parasitize archybenthal macrourid fishes (also known as grenadiers or rattails). The type species, *Tellervotrema armstrongi* Gibson & Bray, 1982 was described from the intestine of the common Atlantic grenadier, *Nezumia aequalis* (Günther), collected from 820–1,000 m depth off the west coast of Scotland (Gibson & Bray 1982). These authors also noted what appeared to be *T. armstrongi*, described earlier as "*Plagioporus* sp. n. #1" by Armstrong (1974, p. 82–86), obtained from the intestine of *N. aequalis* and an unidentified macrourid collected from 548–732 m depth from the northeastern Gulf of Mexico. Gibson & Bray (1982) further speculated that "*Plagioporus* sp. n. #2", also described by Armstrong (1974, p. 86–89) and acquired from the intestine of a single

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