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A new species of Paraheligionella (Nematoda, Heligionellidae), parasite of Sylvilagus
floridanus (Leporidae) from Costa Rica
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Abstract

Paraheligionella lamothei n. sp. (Heligionellidae: Heligionellinae) is described from the small intestine of a cottontail, *Sylvilagus floridanus* (Allen, 1890) (Leporidae), from Costa Rica. New morphological data on the synlophe and caudal bursa of *Paraheligionella romerolagi* (Gibbons and Kumar, 1980), the most similar species, are also provided. The new species differs from *P. romerolagi*, parasitic of *Romerolagus diazi* (Ferrari-Pérez, 1893) from Mexico, mainly by the characters of the caudal bursa and the synlophe of the female within the posterior region of body. Males of *P. lamothei* n. sp. possess a caudal bursa not bell-shaped, with a pattern of type 2-2-1 for right lobe and 2-3 with a tendency to type 2-2-1 for left lobe, whereas males of *P. romerolagi* possess a bell-shaped caudal bursa, with a pattern of type 2-2-1 with a tendency to type 4-1 for both lobes. In *P. lamothei* n. sp. rays 3 are slightly longer than rays 2 and the genital cone is poorly developed, whereas in *P. romerolagi* rays 3 are much longer than rays 2 and the genital cone is large and bulbous. Females of *P. lamothei* n. sp. possess, at ovejector level, ventral and latero-ventral ridges hypertrophied and dorsal ridges reduced, whereas at the same level, females of *P. romerolagi* possess lateral ridges hypertrophied and dorsal and ventral ridges reduced. Additionally, hypertrophied cuticular ridges posterior to the vulva are present in *P. lamothei* n. sp., but absent in *P. romerolagi*.

Keywords

Paraheligionella lamothei n. sp., *Paraheligionella romerolagi*, Trichostrongylina, Heligmosomoidea, lagomorphs, Neotropical region.

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