

**Emendation of the subfamilies Caiguiriinae and Pygidiopsinae (Digenea)
with a redescription of *Caiguiria anterouteria* (Digenea: Heterophyidae)
and reassignment of *Pygidiopsis crassus* to *Caiguiria***

NORMAN O. DRONEN, CHARLES K. BLEND & ALISHA J. DAVIS

Laboratory of Parasitology, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, 2258
TAMU, College Station, Texas 77843-2258, U.S.A.
n-dronen@tamu.edu, ckblend@tamu.edu

Abstract

During a study of members of the genus *Pygidiopsis* from wading birds from the Texas gulf coast, specimens of *Caiguiria anterouteria* from the United States National Parasite Collection and from the Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt and specimens of *Pygidiopsis macrostomum* from the Natural History Museum, London were examined. These specimens demonstrated ranges of characteristics that called in to question their assignment to either *Pygidiopsis* or *Caiguiria*. Species of *Pygidiopsis* are divided into 4 distinct morphological groups based on the presence or absence of spines on the oral sucker, the distribution of the vitellaria and the anterior extent of the uterus. The subfamily Caiguiriinae is emended to include those species with an unarmed oral sucker and vitelline follicles that reach the level of the acetabulum anteriorly, and *C. anterouteria* is redescribed based on existing museum specimens consistent with the holotype specimen. The genus *Caiguiria* is emended to include species where the vitelline follicles reach the level of the acetabulum anteriorly but do not extensively invade the posttesticular space. *Pygidiopsis crassus* is assigned to *Caiguiria* as *Caiguiria crassa* n. comb., and the subfamily Pygidiopsinae is emended to include those species where the vitelline follicles extend from the level of the acetabulum posteriorly in to the posttesticular space and where the uterus is confined to the hindbody. The validity of *Pygidiopsis pelecani* and *Pygidiopsis piclaumoreli* is discussed.

Key words: *Caiguiria*, *Caiguiria crassa* n. comb., Caiguiriinae, Digenea, emendation of taxa, Heterophyidae, *Pygidiopsis*, Pygidiopsinae, species redescription

Introduction

The genus *Pygidiopsis* Looss (Heterophyidae [Leiper]: Pygidiopsinae Yamaguti) was erected by Looss (1907) with the description of *Pygidiopsis genata* Looss from the great white pelican, *Pelecanus onocrotalus* Linnaeus, from Egypt. There are 11 additional species that have historically been assigned to the genus (Table 1).