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Paramononchus orientalis sp. n. and *Ethmolaimus maximus* sp. n. (Nematoda) from Lake Baikal, Russia

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Abstract

Two nematode species found in Lake Baikal, Russia are described. *Paramononchus orientalis* **sp. n** is morphologically close to *P. arcticus* Mulvey, 1978, but differs from it in the shorter body (L = 3.08–3.78 mm *vs* L = 3.5–4.0 mm), larger buccal cavity (64–68 x 30–32 µm *vs* 44–48 x 19–21 µm), larger eggs (140–155 x 80–87 µm *vs* 105–110 x 60–80 µm), less slender tail in females (*c'* = 4.2–5.0 *vs c'* = 5.7–6.5), longer spicules (208–238 µm long *vs* 70 µm long) and shape of gubernaculum. A key for the identification of valid species of the genus *Paramononchus* is given. *Ethmolaimus maximus* **sp. n.** is the largest species yet described in the genus *Ethmolaimus.* It differs from *E. pratensis* de Man, 1880 in the longer body (L = 1.65–2.09 mm *vs* L = 0.6–1.2 mm), comparatively shorter pharynx (*b* = 8.0–9.6 *vs b* = 4.8–7.0), comparatively longer cephalic setae (45–55 % of labial region diameter *vs* 30–35 % of labial region diameter) and longer spicules (52–56 µm long *vs* 38–48 µm long). *Ethmolaimus intermedius* Jensen, 1994 is synonymized with *Ethmolaimus pratensis* de Man, 1880.

Key words: free-living freshwater nematodes, taxonomy, *Ethmolaimus maximus* **sp. n.**, *Paramononchus orientalis* **sp. n**., Lake Baikal, new species

Introduction

The nematode fauna of Lake Baikal is extremely diverse and abundant. As of today, approximately 80 species of baikalian free-living nematodes have been described. The genus *Paramononchus* Mulvey, 1978 includes 5 valid species: *P. arcticus,* Mulvey, 1978, *P. alimovi* Tsalolikhin, 1990, *P. thiocrenobius* (Soós, 1943) Loof, 1999, *P. baikalensis* Gagarin & Naumova, 2010 and *P. orientalis* **sp. n.** We considered *P. thiocrenobius* according Zullini & Peneva (2005), Andrássy (2009), although it does not mentioned in monograph Ahmad & Jairajpuri (2010), but *P. thiocrenobius* was not transferred at the *species inquirenda* status. Two species are found in Lake Baikal: *P. baikalensis* and *P. orientalis* **sp. n.** The genus *Ethmolaimus* has five baikalian representatives, four of which are endemic: *E. pratensis* de Man, 1880, *E. derisorius* Shoshin, 1998, *E. lanatus* Shoshin, 1998, *E. pilosus* Shoshin, 1998, and *E. maximus* **sp.n.**

Material and methods

Nematodes were collected in Lake Baikal, Bay Bolshie Koty near Dva Brata (Two Brothers) rock on 10 June 2008 (at 3–4 m depth), from sand. The samples contained numerous free-living nematodes, including the two species described herein. Nematodes were fixed by standard methods, and mounted in glycerin-jelly on permanent slides (Tsalolikhin, 1980). All observations were made using an Olympus CX-21 light microscope.

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