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Taxonomy of the genus *Aporcelaimellus* Heyns, 1965 (Nematoda, Dorylaimida, Aporcelaimidae)

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Abstract

The taxonomy of the genus *Aporcelaimellus* is revised and updated. A new definition is proposed, with several remarkable diagnostic characters: cuticle three-layered, especially distinguishable at caudal region, usually bearing a hyaline space between inner and intermediate layers at terminal portion of tail; cervical lacunae often present and well developed; oral aperture a dorso-ventral, hexagonal open slit; lip region showing bilateral symmetry and offset by a more or less distinct constriction; odontostyle short, robust and with wide aperture; uterus simple, bi- or tripartite; *pars refringens vaginae* present, well developed; tail similar in both sexes, short, rounded with more or less rounded terminus; and ventromedian supplements 7–25 in number, separated, almost always with pre-cloacal space (hiatus). A list of 28 valid species and their synonyms is provided as well as a key to their identification and a tabular compendium of their morphometrics. *Aporcelaimellus faridpuriensis* is considered to be a *species inquirenda*. Twenty-one species are regarded as *incertae sedis*: *A. amplexor*, *A. budauniensis*, *A. canis*, *A. digicaudatus*, *Dorylaimus domus glauci*, *A. estonicus*, *A. gerlachi*, *A. goldeni*, *A. index*, *A. jairajpurii*, *A. monodelphus*, *A. nawabganjense*, *A. nivalis*, *A. paracentrocercus*, *A. paraobtusicaudatus*, *A. radicus*, *A. sacchari*, *A. seinhorsti*, *A. stilus*, *A. submissus* and *A. subsimilis*. Two species are retained under other genera: *A. bicuticulus* under *Labronema*, and *A. cocophilus* under *Aporcelaimus*. Sixteen species are transferred to other genera: *A. baqrii* and *A. odhneri* to *Crassolabium*; *A. dubius* to *Discolaimium* as *Discolaimium geraldii* nom. n.; *A. duhouxi* to *Labronema*; *A. glandus*, *A. heynsi*, *A. maitai* and *A. paraconicaudatus* to *Discolaimium*; *A. insularis*, *A. jiaonanensis*, *A. kikereensis* and *A. propinquus* to *Aporcelinus*; *A. maximus* to *Aporcella*; *A. paracentrocercus apud* Andrassy (1960) to *Aporcelinus* as *Aporcelinus africanus* sp. n.; *A. saphophilus* to *Eudorylaimus*; and *A. tritici* to *Makatinus*. Finally, *A. concavus* becomes a non-valid binomen.

Key words: Diagnosis, key to species, nomenclatorial changes, revision, species status

Introduction

This is the last in a long series of papers devoted to studies of diversity and taxonomy of the genus *Aporcelaimellus* Heyns, 1965 as well as the closely-related taxa *Metaporcelaimus* Lordello, 1965 and *Aporcella* Andrassy, 2002. Previous contributions dealt with: (i) re-examination of old and/or poorly described species (Álvarez-Ortega & Peña-Santiago, 2010a, b, c & 2011); (ii) proposal of new concepts for the genera *Aporcella* (Álvarez-Ortega *et al.*, 2013a) and *Metaporcelaimus* (Álvarez-Ortega *et al.*, 2013b); (iii) description of new American (Álvarez-Ortega *et al.* 2013c) and Iberian (Álvarez-Ortega *et al.*, 2012, 2013d, e) species of *Aporcelaimellus*; and (iv) a new diagnosis of *A. obtusicaudatus* (Bastian, 1865) Altherr, 1968, the type species of *Aporcelaimellus* (Álvarez-Ortega & Peña-Santiago, 2012). Now, a new definition of this genus is provided, including an updated list of its valid species, a key to their identification and a compendium of their morphometrics.