



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3999.4.2>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:7B1B9CFB-16A5-4DFA-AD6A-3EA64031557C>

Two new species of *Parasaveljevia* Wieser, 1953 (Thoracostomopsidae, Nematoda) from Argentinean coasts (Chubut, Argentina)

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Abstract

Two new *Parasaveljevia* species are described, one from Puerto Madryn, and one from El Limite beach San Jorge Gulf, Chubut Province, Argentina. The two species are characterised by a combination of characters. *Parasaveljevia uncino* **n. sp.** is characterised by having a long rectangular cirrus, positioned at the level of the inner labial setae, rectangular mandibles with prominent lateral hooks bearing denticles in three lines of nine each and six cephalic setae of the same length, inserted at the anterior end of a small head capsule. *Parasaveljevia limitense* **n. sp.** is characterized by having a cirrus posterior positioned, between labial and cephalic setae, rectangular-arched mandibles bearing denticles in five lines of ten each in a gradient of sizes; small buccal cavity, small cephalic capsule and abundant cervical setae (4+10). An emendation of the genus diagnosis and a new key are given and discussed.

Key words: *Parasaveljevia uncino*, *Parasaveljevia limitense*, marine nematode, description, systematics

Introduction

In the period 2006–2012, two survey projects (PNUD/GEF 02/018; PID/CONICET N°11220090100440) were carried out to examine biodiversity of meiofauna in several beaches along the Chubut Province, Argentinean Atlantic coast. Nematodes belonging to the genus *Parasaveljevia* Wieser 1953, were recovered, including some non-described forms, which are herein included.

The genus *Parasaveljevia* is a predatory group of free-living, marine nematode taxa belonging to the subfamily Enoplolaiminae De Coninck, 1965, which includes seventeen other “valid” genera (Smol & Coomans 2006). The diagnosis of *Parasaveljevia* given by Wieser was not detailed, and did not establish clear boundaries with *Oxyonchus*, a closely related genus. In the generic key of Wieser (1953) for Enoplolaiminae the diagnostic characters for *Parasaveljevia* are lips high, labial sense-organs setose, teeth present and surpassing anterior end of mandibles and mandibles well developed. Inglis (1964) illustrated morphological details of the heads of Enoplida, and added *Saveljevia*, *Parasaveljevia* and *Oxyonchus* as having large ventro-lateral teeth and a small dorsal tooth. He stated that these were important diagnostic characters separating them from other Enoplolaimidae. Smol & Coomans (2006) gave a similar diagnosis, adding the presence of cirri-shaped cephalic organs and presence or absence of denticles on mandibular plates and suggesting that the limits of the *Parasaveljevia* and *Oxyonchus* genera remained unclear.

On Chilean coasts only one species, *P. cirrifera* Wieser 1953 was found, and is the only species from which males are known. *Parasaveljevi lupata* Wieser 1953 and *P. clavicauda* (Filipjev 1927) are known only from females or juveniles.

The aim of this paper is to contribute a new diagnosis of *Parasaveljevia* and descriptions of two new species: *Parasaveljevia uncino* **n. sp.** and *Parasaveljevia limitensis* **n. sp.** from Patagonia, Argentina.

Material and methods

Description of sites studied: Samples were collected from two littoral coastal sediments located in Chubut