

Research Note

Recovery of *Prosthodendrium obtusum* (Looss, 1896)  
from *Chamaeleo chamaeleon* Collected from Jordan

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During January 1982, a specimen of *Chamaeleo chamaeleon* was presented to me from the Aqraba area, northern Jordan. The chameleon was dissected and examined for the presences of helminthic infection.

Approximately one hundred specimens of *Prosthodendrium obtusum* (Looss, 1896) were taken from the chameleon duodenum (Fig. 1).

Diagnosis: Body pyriform, vitellaria forming a grape-like bunch, testes laterally located, excretory bladder V-shaped. One cm long and 0.9 cm wide. Oral sucker, ventral sucker and testes are 0.18 cm, 0.18 cm and 0.13 cm in diameter respectively. When alive specimens were kept in distilled water and then vitally stained, a prominent V-shaped excretory bladder was observed.

Although Macy *et al.* (1961) suggested that *P. obtusum* is synonymous with *Prosthodendrium (Paralecithodendrium) glandulosum* (Looss, 1896), I rather use the valid name, *P. obtusum* for the following reasons: Macy *et al.* reported the following measurements for *P. (P.) glandulosum*; body length 0.86 cm, body width 1.08 cm, ventral, oral suckers and testes are 0.17 cm, 0.153 cm and 0.3 cm respectively. The uterus occupied more than one-half the body and the ovary measured 0.18 cm compared with a small uterus and an ovary of 0.12 cm in diameter for our specimen. It seems that *P. (P.) glandulosum* is a chiropteran parasite. It was collected from 7 different species of bats (Abdel Azim, 1936; Macy *et al.*, 1961), while *P. obtusum* was collected only from chamaeleons (Looss, 1896; Jansen and Von den Broek, 1966).

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A survey of the literature revealed that this species was discovered from *C. chamaeleon* from Alexandria, Egypt (Looss, 1896) and from *Chamaeleo* species at the Zoological Gardens, Netherlands (Jansen and Von den Broek, 1966).

This is the first record of *P. obtusum* from Jordan, of which most of its trematodes are still largely unknown. In addition, this is a new locality for this little known species.

A related species, *P. pyramidium*, utilizes the freshwater snail, *Melanooides tuberculatus*, as an intermediate host. The metacercaria of this trematode encyst in the anopheline mosquito larvae (Abdel Azim, 1936; Yamaguti, 1975). *M. tuberculatus* occurs in the Aqraba area besides other freshwater snails, in addition to several anopheline mosquitoes species. Due to the fact that chameleons are known to feed on insects, the life cycle of *P. obtusum* may occur under conditions similar to *P. pyramidium*.

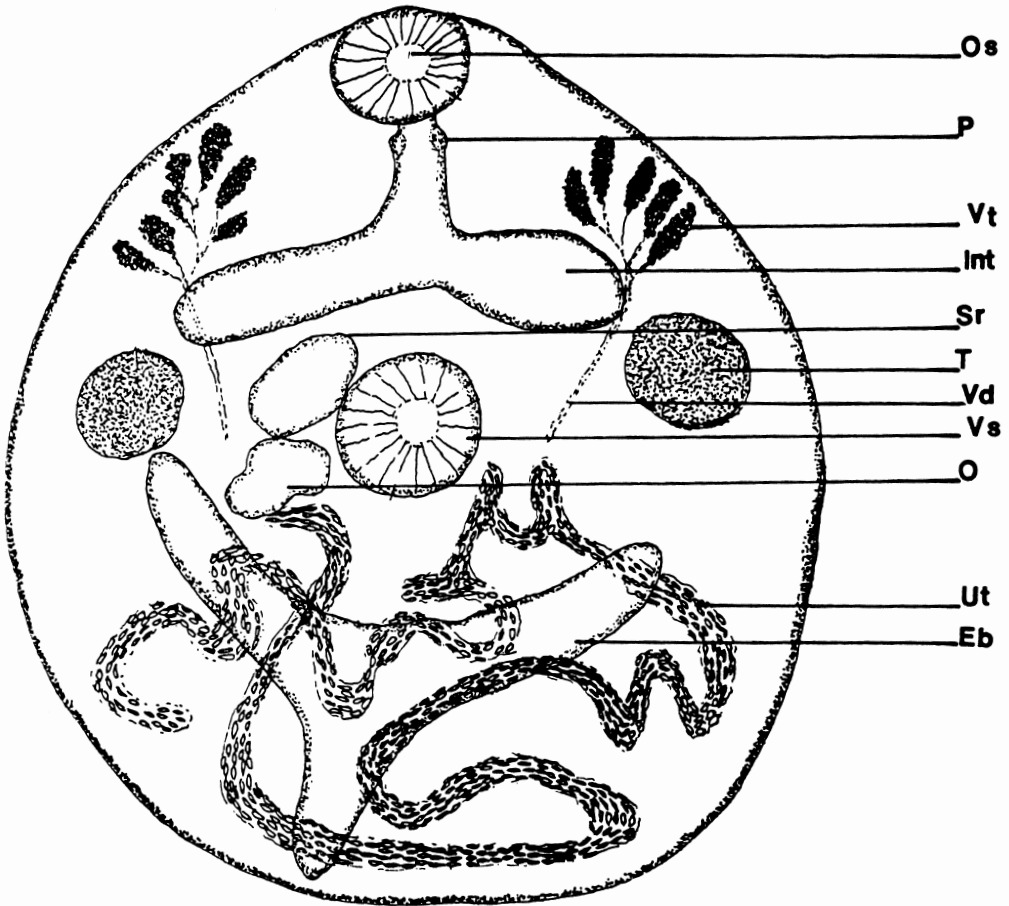
References

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0.2 mm

Fig. 1 *Prosthodendrium obtusum* (Looss, 1896)

- |     |                   |    |                    |
|-----|-------------------|----|--------------------|
| Eb  | Excretory bladder | Sr | Seminal receptacle |
| Int | Intestine         | T  | Testis             |
| O   | Ovary             | Ut | Uterus             |
| Os  | Oral sucker       | V  | Ventral sucker     |
| P   | Pharynx           | Vt | Vitellaria         |