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A New Genus in the Family Lepocreadiidae (Trematoda:
Digenea) with Notes on the Status of Some Taxa Within
the Family

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Abstract

Neocreadium geniagni n.g., n.sp., is a lepecreadiid trematode characterised by the presence of a lymphatic system, fine projections extending from the excretory vesicle wall into the parenchyma, a small cirrus sac which is almost entirely pre-acetabular, and the absence of gland cells around the external seminal vesicle. *N. geniagni* is known from the uranoscopid, *Geniagnus monopterygius*. The most closely related genera are *Lepocreadium* Stossich, 1903, and *Neolepidapedon* Manter, 1954. The status of some taxa within the family Lepocreadiidae is briefly discussed.

INTRODUCTION

THIS report is the first of a series devoted to studies on the digenetic trematodes of New Zealand marine fishes. Major contributions to our knowledge of the fauna have been made by Manter (1954, 1960) while a few species have been described or reported by Monticelli (1889), Fyfe (1953, 1954), and Yeh (1954).

The new species described below was collected from *Geniagnus monopterygius* (Bloch & Schneider) taken by otter trawl in Wellington Harbour during the course of a collecting programme by the Zoology Department, Victoria University of Wellington. I would like to thank the staff and students who were responsible for the collection of host material; Dr J. A. F. Garrick for helpful criticisms of the manuscript; and Dr H. W. Manter, of the University of Nebraska (U.S.A.), for examining slides and making valuable suggestions regarding the status of this species.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Specimens of *Geniagnus monopterygius*, collected by otter trawl from Wellington Harbour, were generally transported alive in a seven gallon plastic bucket filled with sea-water to the Island Bay Marine Laboratory, where they were killed and the alimentary canal removed. Examination of the various sections of the alimentary canal of the host (apart from the pyloric caeca and gall bladder) was carried out as suggested by Manter (1954) except that 0.7% saline was used for washing rather than tap water. The pyloric caeca were dissected free from the

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