

CONTRIBUTION TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF *PHILO-*
METRA LATEOLABRACIS YAMAGUTI, 1935
(NEMATODA, FILARIOIDEA)¹

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(with 6 figures)

SUMMARY: In this paper the authors refer *Philometra lateolabracis* Yamaguti, 1935 for the first time from the Atlantic Ocean also as a new host record. They report the presence of one male of diminished dimensions, found in close relationship with the females of *Ph. lateolabracis*; as the male of this species is unknown, they admit the possibility of this small nematode be the male of this species.

DURING an examination of the biquara, *Haemulon plumieri* (Lacépède) five long, dark-coloured nematodes and a single small transparent nematode were found among the eggs of the ovary.

A study of the large worms showed them to agree in all essential respects with the description of females of the Draconid nematode *Philometra lateolabracis* which was first reported from the Pacific coast of Wakayama Prefecture, Japan, in *Lateolabrax japonicus* (type host), *Parapristipoma trilineatum* and *Epinephelus okaara* (Yamaguti, 1935). RASHEED (2) had synonymised with *Ph. lateolabracis* two other descriptions, viz. *Ph. sciaenae*, reported from *Sciaena schlegeli*, and *Ph.*

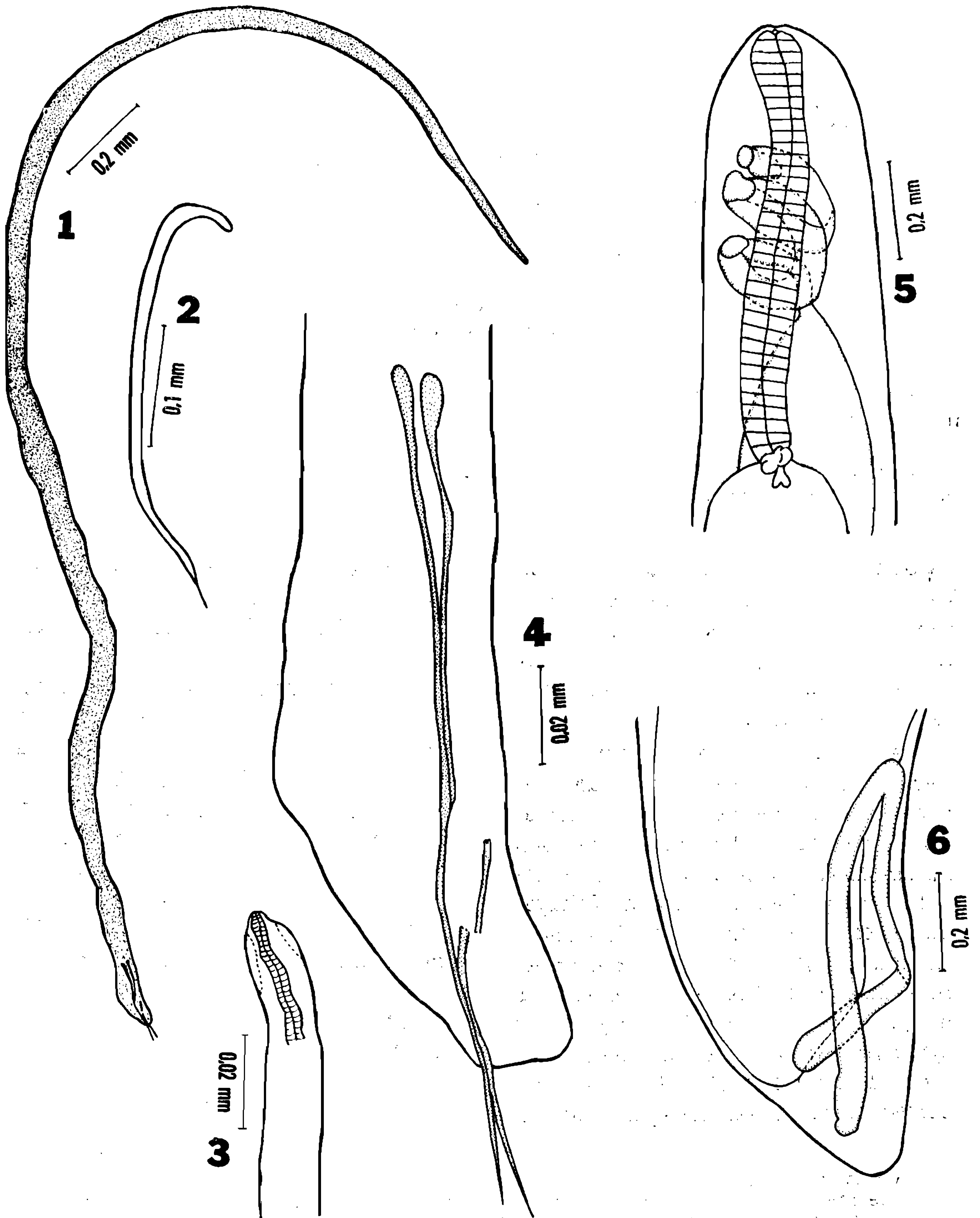
scomberomori from *Scombero morus chinensis*, both reported from Japan by YAMAGUTI (1941). Accepting RASHEED'S (2) revision of the genus and his conclusions regarding the variation in size of *Ph. lateolabracis* in different hosts, it appears that this species is found also in *Otolithus ruber* and *Hemisphamus georgii*. It is evidently widespread in the tropical Indo-Pacific and is common to a variety of hosts. RASHEED (3) reported a similar worm, which he referred to as *Ph. lateolabracis*, infesting *Lates calcifer* and *Johnius sina*, the size being as small as 10 mm in the latter species. In this paper, the species is reported for the first time from the Atlantic, with record from a new host.

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1 — Male (Total body)
 2 — Filariform embryo (Filariform)
 3 — Anterior end of male

4 — Tail end of male (one spicule is broken)
 5 — Anterior end of female
 6 — Tail end of female.

The small transparent specimen found in association with the females was a male, but no positive conclusion could be reached because, on account of its fragility, small size and poor state of preservation, the cuticle and internal structure were damaged and the organs difficult to make out. Nevertheless, considering its close association with the females and the likelihood that it is the undescribed male of the same species, it seems advisable to describe what is known from the specimen. As BAYLIS (1) proposed in connection with another species, *Pb. senticosa*; "The male worm is probably, as in other members of the family, very much smaller than the female and consequently liable to be overlooked by the collector, whose attention is occupied with the very large and conspicuous female worms".

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The collected material was infesting *Haemulon plumieri* (Lacépède), biquara, from Ceará Coast, Brazil. For fixation, we used boiling Railliet and Henry solution.

The material was studied after being clarified in acetic acid and creosote, and preserved in Canada balsam. The male was stained by acetic carmine, clarified in phenol, creosote, and preserved in Canada balsam.

RESULTS

Females of *Philometra lateolabracis*, Yamaguti, 1935.

Male of *Philometra lateolabracis* (?)

Length - Male: 3,17 mm

Female: 37 cm

Width - Male: 0,06 mm

Female: 1,03 mm.

Male presenting a thin and smooth cuticle. Body transparent to

cream. Anterior extremity of the body tapering, broadening gradually to its maximum width towards the posterior end. Oesophagus tubular in its anterior portion, although its length could not be measured. Concerning the ventricular apparatus we were unable to give evidence of presence. The spicules are sub-equal. One of them was complete and measured, 0,16 mm long. Accessory piece absent.

Females with smooth cuticle. Body dark-yellow with dark-brown coloured gut showing through. Mouth bearing three lips without interlabia. The short tube-shaped oesophagus, is 1,16 mm long and 0,07 mm wide. Ventriculus, very reduced, is 0,06 mm long and 0,09 mm wide; bearing ventricular glands. Genitalia complex, including a cylindrical ovary at each end of the body. The anterior ovary is 1,30 mm long and 0,06 mm wide; the posterior is 1,53 mm long and 0,06 mm wide. The fully gravid uterus is distended with filariform embryos; each one is 0,37 mm long and 0,02 mm wide. Vulva and anus not evident. Body extremity rounded, bearing no papillae.

SUMARIO

Nesta nota, os autores registram a primeira ocorrência de *Philometra lateolabracis* Yamaguti, 1935, no Atlântico e em novo hospedeiro.

Reportam também a presença de um macho de proporções diminutas encontrado em estreita relação com as fêmeas de *Pb. lateolabracis*; sendo os machos desta espécie desconhecidos, admitem a possibilidade deste minúsculo nematódeo tratar-se do macho da citada espécie.

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