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FURTHER OBSERVATIONS ON *PSILOCOLLARIS INDICUS* SINGH, 1954, WITH A NOTE ON ITS SYSTEMATIC POSITION (TREMATODA : PSILOSTOMATIDAE)

The genus *Psilocollaris* was proposed by Singh (1954) with *P. indicus* as its type species collected from *Dissoura episcopus episcopus* (= *Ciconia e. episcopus*) in Lucknow. While assigning the genus *Psilocollaris* to the famliy Psilostomatidae, Singh mentioned the presence of a collar at the anterior end of the body and remarked that if spines were present this form would be regarded as typical echinostome. This author had the privilege to re-examine the type specimens which have been deposited in the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

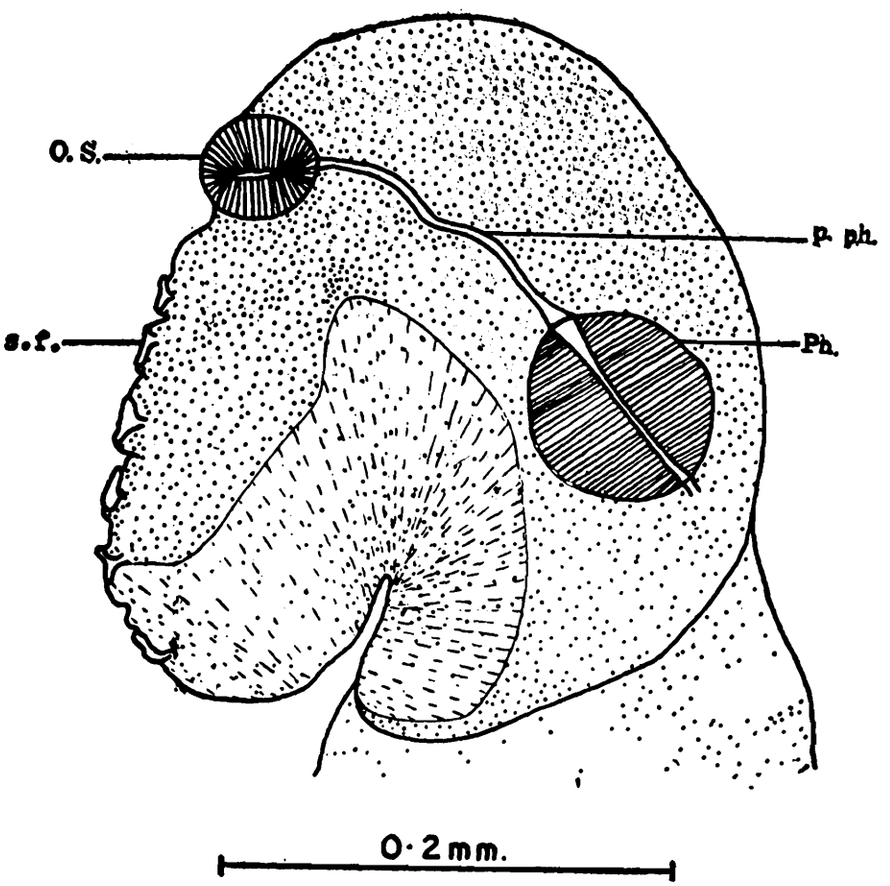

Fig. 1. Head collar of *Psilocollaris indicus* Singh, 1954 showing follicles of collar spines.

There are three slides of *Psilocollaris indicus*, bearing the number W 3893/1, W 3894/1 and W 3895/1.

The holotype specimen on slide No. W 3893/1, the figure of which has been given by Singh, has a distinct collar but the collar spines are not visible as stated by Singh.

The slide No. W 3894/1 has two specimens, one straight and the other somewhat U-shaped. The right part of the head collar in the straight specimen has some collar spines, their exact number could not be counted. The U-shaped specimen also bears about 11 spines in the collar region.

The trematode on slide No. W 3894/1 has small cup-like depressions (Fig. 1) at the margin of the collar. These depressions have a cavity, the edges of which are projecting beyond the outline of the collar. There are six such depressions to be clearly seen on the left side and a few towards the right side of the collar are not so clear as those on the left side. It is difficult to make an accurate count of such depressions. These depressions are considered to be follicles of collar spines which have fallen off during processing of the specimen.

The presence of collar spines in these specimens indicate that they are typical echinostomes. The general morphology of *Psilocollaris indicus* agrees with *Dissurus farrukhabadi* Verma, 1936 coltected from the same host, as redescribed and figured by Srivastava (1974) in his critical restudy of the specimens of Verma (1936). On the basis of close resemblance between *Psilocollaris indicus* and *Dissurus farukhabadi* the genus *Psilocollaris* is dropped as a synonym of *Dissurus*, treating *Psilocollaris indicus* Singh, 1954 as synonym of *D. farukhabadi* Verma, 1936.

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