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### On a New Species of *Avitellina shantae* n.sp. from *Ovis-Bharal* From Buldhana district (M.S.) India



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#### **ABSTRACT**

The present investigation deals with the new species of *Avitellina shantae* n.sp. obtained from the host *ovis bharal* from buldhana district (M.S.) India. The present cestode parasites *Avitellina shantae* differs from the characters the scolex is large in size, almost oval in shape, distinctly marked off from the strobilla, broader anteriorly, tapering posteriorly, with a blunt anterior surface. The four Suckers are large in size, oval in shape, arranged in two pairs, one in each half of it overlapping with each pair, with

high musculature. The neck is long wide, slightly longer than broad, with high musculature, broader anteriorly, narrow posteriorly. The mature segment broader than long, cirrus pouch is small in size, oval in shape, the cestode parasites is identified and confirmed to be representing *Avitellina shantae* n.sp. in mammalian host i.e *Ovis bharal*.

#### **KEY WORDS**

*Avitellina*, Buldhana, *Ovis bharal*, India.

## RESEARCH PAPER

### INTRODUCTION:

The genus *Avitellina* was established by Gough 1911, and its type species *A. centripunctata* (Rivolta, 1874) in *Ovis aries* in Europe. Helminths are one of the more destructive internal parasites of the vertebrate including man (Strickland, G.T., 2000). The genus *Avitellina* is an important parasitic tapeworm that has many final hosts such as cattle, sheep, goats and other domestic and wild ruminants. It is common parasite of domestic ruminants in Europe, Asia and Africa (Gary R. M., 2002). The presence of *Avitellina* species in ruminant can negatively affect their productivity. Lambs are more susceptible to infection with *Avitellina* causes diarrhea and reduced weight gain. Also it causes gastrointestinal disorders and even death in sheep and goats.

So it constitutes a big problem in sheep raising countries.

*Avitellina* tapeworms are the intestinal cestodes of wild and domestic ruminants. Members of the genus have an indirect life cycle with ruminants as final hosts, with oribatid mites or collembolans as intermediate hosts (Narsapur, 1988; Denegri et al., 1998). After ingestion of the intermediate hosts, cysticeroid larvae actively move to small intestine of the definitive host and mature (Soulsby, 1986; Denegri et al., 1998; Ndom et al., 2016).

*Avitellina* tapeworms have a worldwide distribution, and a great veterinary importance (Woodland, 1935; Schmidt, 1986; Belem et al., 2001; Achi et al., 2003a,b). The prevalence of *Avitellina* tapeworms varies among regions and hosts. Among sheep, prevalence was documented to be around 35% and 8% in Ivory Coast (Achi et al., 2003b) and in Burkina Faso, respectively (Ouattara and Dorchie, 2001). In Senegal, 15 to 38.7% infection was reported (Ba et al., 1994; Ndom et al., 2016). Infections in goats were reported to be 30%, 2.5% and 8% in Burkina Faso (Belem et al., 2005), Mongolia (Sharkhuu, 2001) and Senegal (Ba et al., 1994), respectively. Prevalence of *Avitellina* in cattle was estimated around 4% in Ivory Coast (Achi et al., 2003a) and 7% in Senegal (Ba et al., 1994).

In heavy infestation, *Avitellina* tapeworms may cause serious disorders (Euzéby, 1966a,b), particularly in lambs, kids and calves under 1 year old (Soulsby, 1986). Thus, *Avitellina* tapeworms represent an economic point in animal industry (Narsapur, 1988).

In spite of the importance of these parasites, little is known about their ecology, evolutionary biology or population genetics (Ndom, 2018). Among the members of the genus, 25 species have been described from wild and domestic ruminants in different regions of the world, but only 15 are currently considered valid (<http://www.tapewormdb.uconn.edu>). In domestic ruminants, three species *A. centripunctata* (Rivolta, 1874) Gough, 1911, *A. chalmersi* Woodland, 1927, and *A. tattia* Bhalerao, 1936 are considered valid (Spasskii, 1951). This species have been described based on their relatively narrow set of morphological features (Ndom, 2018). Thus *A. chalmersi* is morphologically distinct for *A. centripunctata* by his annular thickening on the proglottids margin (Woodland, 1927), while *A. tattia* is characterized by a very long cirrus pouch (3–4 times larger than the copulative portion of vagina) (Spasskii, 1951).

In Senegal, *A. centripunctata* has been reported as the only species among domestic ruminants (Vassiliades, 1981; Ba, 1989; Tamssar Missam, 2006). However, a multilocus isoenzyme electrophoresis study reported the existence of cryptic species in *Avitellina centripunctata* in Senegal (Ba et al., 1994). Which are often convergent, causing controversy about the taxonomy of this genus, further questing the value of only using morphological characters in identifying and differentiating *Avitellina* cestode species. In addition, recent studies in *Anoplocephalids* tapeworms showed the necessity of molecular analysis and re-evaluation of taxonomy and species identification (Diop et al., 2015, Guo, 2015, 2016, 2017, Ndom et al., 2018).

The present investigation deals with the morphological characters of the Cestode parasites *Avitellina* from *Ovis bharal* from Buldhana District (M.S.) India.

#### **MATERIAL AND METHODS:**

Cestode parasites were collected from the intestine of *Ovis- bharal* at Buldhana district (M.S.) India. These Cestodes preserved in hot 4% formalin and stained with Aceto-caramine or Harris haematoxylin, passed through various alcoholic grades, cleared in xylene, mounted in D.P.X. and drawings are made with the aid of camera lucida. All measurements are given in millimeters, otherwise mentioned. The identification is made with the help of Systema Helminthum.

#### **DESCRIPTION :**

Sixteen specimens of the Cestode parasites were collected from the intestine of the *Ovis-Bharal* in the month of January at Malkapur District. Buldhana M.S. India.

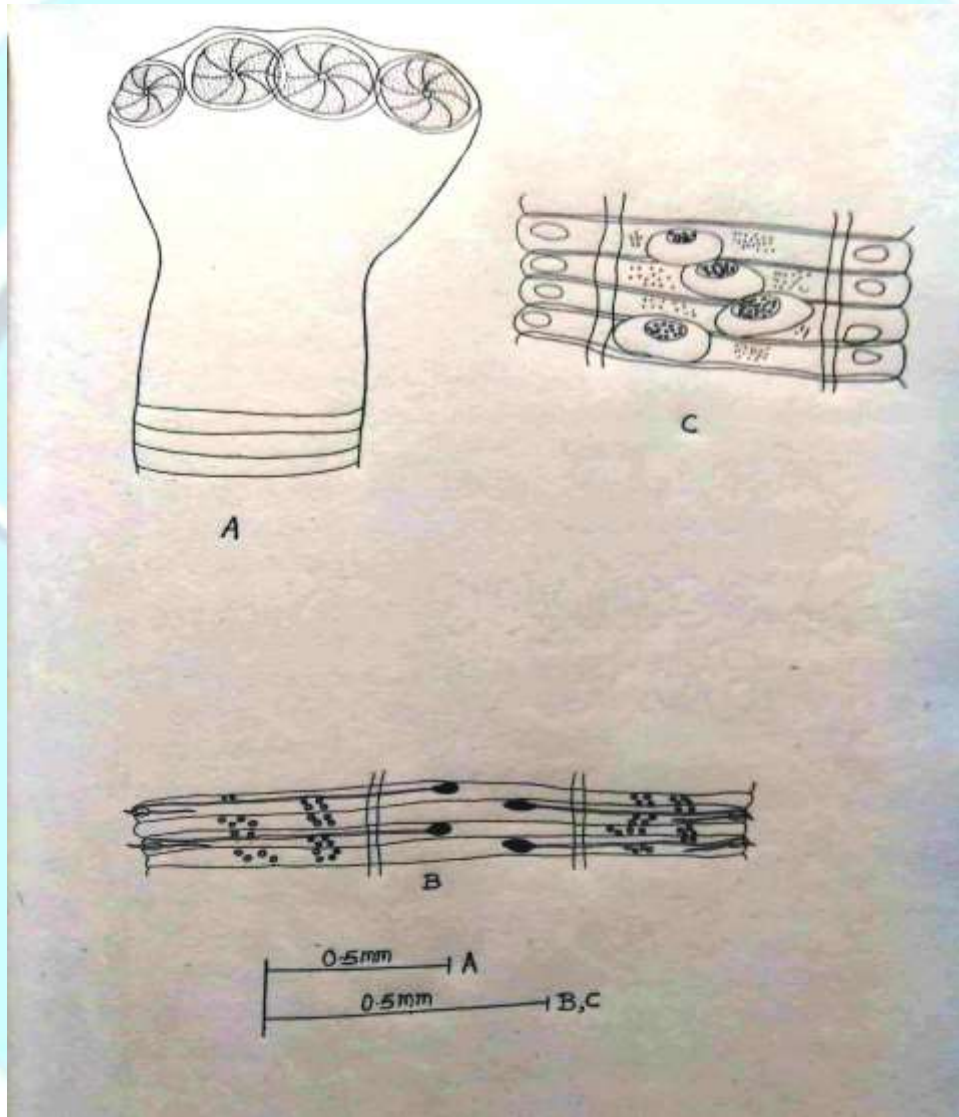
The scolex is large in size, almost oval in shape, distinctly marked off from the strobila, broader anteriorly, tapering posteriorly, with a blunt anterior surface and measures 1.924 (1.0893-1.954) in length and 2.564 (2.439-2.689) in width. The four suckers are large in size, oval in shape, arranged in two pair, one pair in each half of it overlapping with each pair, with high musculature and measures 0.693 (0.674-0.712) in length and 0.723 (0.704-0.742) in width. The neck is long wide, slightly longer than broad, with high musculature, broader anteriorly, narrow posteriorly and measures 1.424 (1.401-1.446) in length and 1.518 (1.1446-1.590) in width. The mature segments are broader than long, almost 14 to 15 times broader than long, proglottides indistinct, very thin, narrow, with irregular lateral margins, with convex lateral margins, with slight projections at the posterior corners of the segments and measures 0.111 (0.101-0.121) in length and 2.808 (2.781-2.834) in width. The testes are small in size, rounded in shape, 6 to 8 in numbers, divided in two on each side of the excretory canal and measures 0.2912 in diameter.

The cirrus pouch is small in size, oval in shape situated obliquely, at the anterior margin or at the segment and measures 0.075 (0.067-0.082) in length and 0.038 (0.033-0.043) in width. The cirrus is short, thin slightly curved, contained within the cirrus pouch and measures 0.135 (0.131-0.140) in length and 0.0291 (0.048-0.009) in width. The ovary is small in size, dumb-bell shaped, transversely elongated and measures 0.087 (0.082-0.092) in length and 0.050 (0.043-

0.058) in width. The lobes are with irregular margin, unequal size, situated outside the longitudinal excretory canals and with numerous acini.

The vas deference is thin, almost straight, runs parallel to the anterior margin of the segments and measures 0.225 (0.223-0.228) in length and 0.016 (0.014-0.019) in width.

The vitellaria are absent in the segments. The longitudinal excretory canals are narrow and measures 0.546 (0.543-0.548) in length and 0.832 (0.820-0.844) in width.



## DISCUSSION:

The genus *Avitellian* was established by Gough, 1911 and as its type species *A. centripunctata* erected by Rivolta, 1874 in *Ovis aries*. Later on four species were added to this genus (Woodland, 1927) i.e. *A. chalmeri* from *Ovis aries*, *A. goughi* from *Ovis aries*, *Bos taurus* and *Capra hircus*, *A. lahorea* from *Bubalus bubalis* and *A. sudanea* from *Ovis aries* and *Capra hircus*. Then *A. sandgroundi* (Woodland, 1928) from *Hippotragus equines*, Later on *A. tatia*

added from *Capra hircus* and *A. woodlandi* from *Ovis aries* (Bhalerao, 1936). Then *A.nagbhushanmi* from *Bos indicus* (G. B. Shinde, 1983). Recently *A. hircusae* from *Capra hircus* (Kale, 2005) *A. singhii* from *Capra hircus* (Shinde S.M., 2013) and *A. ali* From *Capra hircus* (Suryawanshi, 2015). The present form collected from the intestine of the *Ovis-Bharal* in the month of January at Malkapur. District. Buldhana M.S. India.

The cestode under discussion comes closer to *Avitellina centripunctata* (Rivolta, 1874) in having all the essential morphological characters i.e the scolex is large in size, almost oval in shape, distinctly marked off from the strobila, broader anteriorly, tapering posteriorly, with a blunt anterior surface. The four suckers are large in size, oval in shape, arranged in two pair, one pair in each half of it overlapping with each pair, with high musculature. The neck is long wide, slightly longer than broad, with high musculature, broader anteriorly, narrow posteriorly. The mature segments are broader than long, almost 14 to 15 times broader than long, proglottides indistinct, very thin, narrow, with irregular lateral margins, with convex lateral margins, with slight projections at the posterior corners of the segments, The testes are small in size, rounded in shape, 6 to 8 in numbers, divided in two on each side of the excretory canal and measures 0.2912 in diameter. The cirrus pouch is small in size, oval in shape situated obliquely, at the anterior margin or at the segment.

The cirrus is short, thin slightly curved, contained within the cirrus pouch, The ovary is small in size, dumb-bell shaped, transversely elongated, The lobes are with irregular margin, unequal size, situated outside the longitudinal excretory canals and with numerous acini. The vas deference is thin, almost straight, runs parallel to the anterior margin of the segments. The vitellaria are absent in the segments, The longitudinal excretory canals are narrow.

The present cestode parasite differs from the *Avitellina centripuncta* Rivolta, 1874, *A. centripunctata* (Rivolta, 1874) Gough, 1911, *A. aegyptica*, Nagaty, 1929, *A. artica*, Kolmakov, 1938, *A. chalmesi*, Woodland, 1927, *A. edifontaineus*, Woodland, 1928, *A. monardi*, Fuhrmann, 1933, *A. pygargi*, Kholodkovsky, 1902, *A. ricardi*, Woodland, 1928, *A.sandgroundi*, Woodland, 1935, *A. tatia*, Bhalerao, 1936.

**Table 1 A comparison of morphometric characters of *Avitellina* spp.**

<i>Avitellina</i> spp.	Hosts	Localities	length of cestode	Width of immature proglottids(µm)
<i>Avitellina centripuncta</i> Rivolta, 1874	<i>Bos taurus</i> , <i>Bubalus bufellus</i> , <i>Capra hircus</i> , <i>Ovis aries</i> , <i>Camelus</i> sp., <i>Aepicros melappus</i> , <i>Cephalophus grimmia</i> , <i>Hippotragus equinus</i>	Europe, Africa, Asia	1 m	1800
<i>Avitellina centripuncta</i> (Rivolta, 1874) Gough, 1911	<i>Bos taurus</i> , <i>Bubalus bufellus</i> , <i>Capra hircus</i> , <i>Ovis aries</i> , <i>Camelus</i> sp., and wild ruminants	Europe, Africa, Asia	1 – 2.5 m	1000
<i>Avitellina aegyptica</i> , Nagaty,1929	<i>Cephalophus</i> sp. <i>Camelus dromedarius</i>	Northeast Rhodesia, Africa	fragments 20–100 mm	-
<i>Avitellina artica</i> ,kolmakov,1938	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i> , <i>Capreolus pygargus</i>	USSR (west Siberia)	-	275
<i>Avitellina chalmesi</i> , Woodland, 1927	<i>Ovis aries</i>	North Africa, India	4.572 mm	1720
<i>Avitellina edifontaineus</i> , Woodland, 1928	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>	Tanganyika, East Africa	-	680
<i>Avitellina monardi</i> , Fuhrmann, 1933	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>	Angola (West Africa)	-	-
<i>Avitellina pygargi</i> , Kholodkovsky, 1902	<i>Capreolus pygargus</i>	Altai (USSR)	1.5 m	
<i>Avitellina ricardi</i> , Woodland, 1928	<i>Kobus</i> sp.	Zeeland (East Africa)	-	590–710
<i>Avitellina sandgroundi</i> , Woodland, 1935	<i>Hippotragus equinus</i>	North Katanga, Africa	fragment (40 cm)	-
<i>Avitellina tatia</i> , Bhalerao,1936	<i>Capra hircus</i>	United provinces, India	-	-
<i>Avitellina Centripunctata</i> (n=32 1	<i>Ovis aries</i>	Senegal	1.2–3.75 m	1478.56 (774–2257)
<i>Avitellina</i> sp. 2(n=14)	<i>Ovis aries</i>	Senegal	0.75–1.10 m	560 (273–833)
<i>Avitellina</i> sp.3(n=6)	<i>Ovis aries</i>	Senegal	-	782 (655–1200)
<i>Avitellina shantae</i> nov.sp	<i>Ovis bharal</i>	Buldhana dist. (M.S.) India	8-9 cm	-

<i>Avitellina</i> spp.	width of matures proglottids (µm)	Scolex diameter (µm)	Sucker diameter (µm)	Number of testicular column
<i>Avitellina centripuncta</i> Rivolta, 1874	2500	1500–2200	500–1000	4
<i>Avitellina centripuncta</i> (Rivolta, 1874) Gough, 1911	4000	1500–3000	400–500 × 300–400	4
<i>Avitellina aegyptica</i> , Nagaty, 1929	-	-	-	4
<i>Avitellina artica</i> , kolmakov, 1938	1209	-	-	4
<i>Avitellina chalmesi</i> , Woodland, 1927	3000	2080–2420	950–1020	4
<i>Avitellina edifontaineus</i> , Woodland, 1928	2200	-	-	4
<i>Avitellina monardi</i> , Fuhrmann, 1933	2300	-	-	2
<i>Avitellina pygargi</i> , Kholodkovsky, 1902	4000	500	160	2
<i>Avitellina ricardi</i> , Woodland, 1928	1140-1620	-	-	2
<i>Avitellina sandgroundi</i> , Woodland, 1935	3420	2060	880	4
<i>Avitellina tatia</i> , Bhalerao, 1936	2470	-	-	4
<i>Avitellina Centripunctata</i> (n=32) I	2719.41 (1116–3995)	1841.13 (1160–2661)	370 (334–406)	4
<i>Avitellina</i> sp. 2(n=14)	1968.43 (769–2945)	671 (540–840)	135 (107–171)	4
<i>Avitellina</i> sp. 3(n=6)	1886.5 (889–2932)	898 (850–1150)	105 (78–139)	4
<i>Avitellina shantae nov.sp</i>	0.111 (0.101-0.121) length 2.808 (2.781-2.834) width	1.924 (1.893-1.954) length 2.564 (2.439-2.689) width	0.693 (0.674-0.712) length 0.723 (0.704-0.742) width	3-4

<i>Avitellina</i> spp.	Excretory vessels	Testes diameter ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	Length X width of cirrus pouch ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	Length X width of paruterin organe ( $\mu\text{m}$ )
<i>Avitellina centripuncta</i> Rivolta, 1874	2 pairs	40–70	210–250 × 38–45	560–1000
<i>Avitellina centripuncta</i> (Rivolta, 1874) Gough, 1911	2 pairs	80	60–100 × 30–40	-
<i>Avitellina aegyptica</i> , Nagaty, 1929	2 pairs	90 × 54	83 × 24	245 × 100
<i>Avitellina artica</i> , kolmakov, 1938	2 pairs	-	122 × 76	-
<i>Avitellina chalmesi</i> , Woodland, 1927	2 pairs	-	63–72 × 14–22	425 × 200
<i>Avitellina edifontaineus</i> , Woodland, 1928	1 pair	80	25–27 × 18	340 × 660
<i>Avitellina monardi</i> , Fuhrmann, 1933	1 pair	-	36 × 06	170–200
<i>Avitellina pygargi</i> , Kholodkovsky, 1902	-	-	-	-
<i>Avitellina ricardi</i> , Woodland, 1928	1 pair	44–50 × 18–33	18 × 32	210–240 × 430–490
<i>Avitellina sandgroundi</i> , Woodland, 1935	-	87	117 × 73	-
<i>Avitellina tatia</i> , Bhalerao, 1936	2 pairs	-	300–393 × 42–50	600 × 340
<i>Avitellina Centripunctata</i> (n=32) I	2 pairs	51 (34–85)	196 (140–344) X 52 (27-85)	324.6–635 × 106–136
<i>Avitellina</i> sp. 2(n=14)	2 pairs	75 (54–93)	277 (190–258) X 73 (58-97)	365–1000 × 169–214
<i>Avitellina</i> sp. 3(n=6)	2 pairs	41 (33–56)	170 (89–233) X 40 (28-42)	306–463 × 198–311
<i>Avitellina shantae</i> nov.sp	1 pair	0.291	0.075 (0.067-0.082) 0.038 (0.033-	-



0.043)

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