

**A DESCRIPTION OF THE METACERCARIA
OF *MARITREMA ARENARIA* HADLEY & CASTLE, 1940
(DIGENEA: MICROPHALLIDAE)
FROM *BALANUS BALANOIDES* (L) IN BRITAIN.**

by

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Résumé

La métacercaire de *Maritrema arenaria* (Digenea : Microphallidae) a été rencontrée pour la première fois, en Grande-Bretagne, dans l'Anatife *Balanus balanoides*, recueilli sur le littoral rocheux de Mumbles Head, au Sud du Pays de Galles.

The adult, *Maritrema arenaria*, was first described by Hadley and Castle (1940) from the ruddy turnstone, *Arenaria interpres morinella* and the metacercaria from *Balanus balanoides* (L.) at Woods Hole. The species has not previously been recorded in Britain but Lebour (1908, 1911) described a similar species, *Cercaria balani* from *B. balanoides* in Northumberland.

The metacercaria was discovered during life cycle work on opacoelid metacercariae in *Balanus balanoides*, collected from the rocky shore near Mumbles Head, Swansea in 1975. About one thousand barnacles were dissected during the study but only one contained an encysted metacercaria. The spherical yellow cyst, measuring 280 μ in diameter, occurred in the coelom close to the gut wall.

Adult characters were well developed (Fig. 1), facilitating identification, but the uterus contained no eggs.

The turnstone is a common bird at Mumbles Head and therefore available to act as the final host.

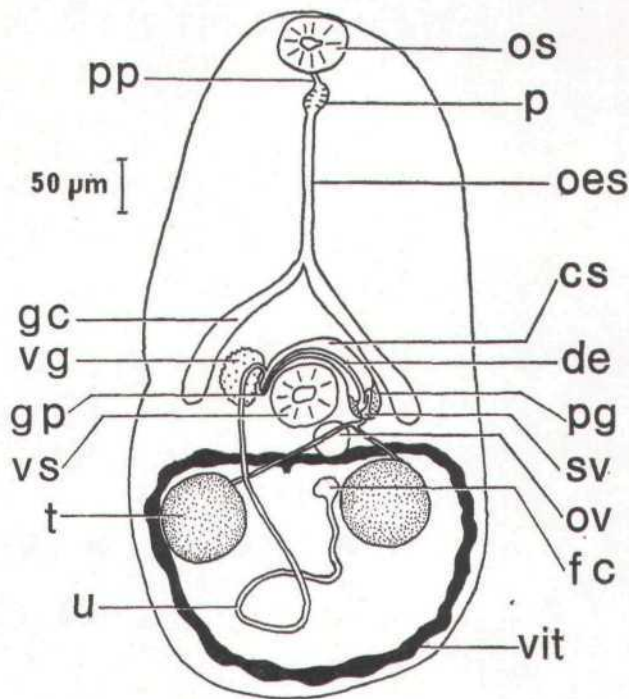


FIG. 1

Excysted metacercaria of *Maritrema arenaria* Hadley and Castle, 1940, ventral view. cs: cirrus sac; de: ductus ejaculatorius; fc: fertilization chamber; gc: gut caecum; gp: genital pore; os: oral sucker; oes: oesophagus; ov: ovary; p: pharynx; pp: prepharynx; pg: prostate gland; sv: seminal vesicle; t: testis; u: uterus; vg: vaginal gland; vit: vitelline glands; vs: ventral sucker.

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