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NOTE ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *Acetodextra amiuri* (STAFFORD) (TREMATODA: HETEROPHIDAE) IN CHANNEL CATFISH FROM THE TENNESSEE RIVER

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Large numbers of *Acetodextra amiuri* (Stafford) were found in the ovaries of three adult channel catfish, *Ictalurus punctatus*, taken June 23, 1974, near Tennessee River Mile 298 in Wheeler Reservoir, Alabama. This was consistent with the findings of Perkins¹ who found as many as 1,078 adult *A. amiuri* in a single channel catfish ovary. Perkins stated that there is no question that *A. amiuri* destroys ovarian tissue and ova. Young worms were found within ova where they consumed yolk. Large mature worms occurred free in the ovary. Severe mechanical injury probably results from the activity of mature adults. No attempt was made to quantify our findings, but the infections were massive with several hundred worms per ovary. Destruction of connective tissue within the ovary was obvious.

Acetodextra amiuri most commonly parasitizes the ovaries or air bladder but it also has been found in the liver. In addition to channel catfish, *A. amiuri* is known to parasitize yellow bullheads (*I. natalus*), black bullheads (*I. melas*), brown bullheads (*I. nebulosus*), stonecats (*Noturus flavus*), tadpole madtoms (*N. gyrinus*), and mottled sculpins (*Cottus bairdi*).

Published literature on *A. amiuri* indicates it has been found in New York, Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois, and Lake Erie. Unpublished records of its occurrence in Alabama have been made by workers at Auburn University (W. A. Rogers, personal communication). This is the first known record of this parasite in the southern United States. The authors believe the distribution of *A. amiuri* is much wider than reported in the literature.

LITERATURE CITED

1. PERKINS, K. W. 1956. Studies on the morphology and biology of *Acetodextra amiuri* (Stafford) (Trematoda: Heterophyidae). Am. Midland Naturalist. 55: 131-161.

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