

The genus *Oschmarinolepis* Spassky et Spasskaja, 1954 (Cestoda, Cyclophyllidea), history of studying, and the most recent species structure

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The genus *Oschmarinolepis* was erected by Spassky and Spasskaja (1954) for one cestode species – *O. microcephala* (Rudolphi, 1819) described from *Plegadis falcinellus* in Europe. The genus is characterized by 10 fraternoid hooks and the unique position of the testes: two lateral ones are located outside of the osmoregulatory canals and the third one is in the median position. In subsequent publications *Taenia multiformis* Creplin, 1829 and *Taenia leptoptili* Linstow, 1908 were considered junior synonyms of *O. microcephala*. The list of definitive hosts of the species was expanded, by adding birds of the order Ciconiiformes: *Ardea alba*, *A. cinerea*, *A. purpurea*, *Ardeola ralloides*, *Bubulcus ibis*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Leptoptilus crumenifer*. More recently Czaplinski and Vaucher (1994) considered the genus *Oschmarinolepis* as a synonym of the genus *Microsomacanthus* Lopez-Neyra, 1942. We studied museum-deposited cestode specimens labelled as *O. microcephala* from *P. falcinellus* (Ukraine), *C. ciconia* (Slovakia and Sweden), *Ciconia abdimii* (Sudan), *A. cinerea* (Russia). We also examined syntype of *O. microcephala* from ZMB Berlin, revised the published descriptions of *O. microcephala*, *T. multiformis*, and *T. leptoptili* and compared them with our specimens. Based on the morphology of examined specimens we restore the genus *Oschmarinolepis* as a valid taxon. The genus includes 2 species: *O. microcephala* – a parasite of *P. falcinellus*. It has 10 fraternoid (15–18 µm) hooks with relatively short handle. *O. multiformis* (Creplin, 1829) Greben et al. comb. n. (in press) – a parasite of different birds of the family Ciconiidae. It has 10 fraternoid (33–35 µm) hooks with relatively long handle. *T. leptoptili* is a synonym of *O. multiformis*. Creplin (1829) described *T. multiformis* by two cestode species from *C. ciconia*. One of the species was redescribed later by Krabbe (1869) as *T. multiformis* and now it is a synonym of *D. discoidea* (Van Beneden, 1868) in the family Dilepididae (Fuhrmann, 1908). The second species was redescribed by Cohn (1904) also as *T. multiformis* but its morphology suggests it should rather represent the family Hymenolepididae. We only consider as valid the hosts for which a morphological description of the cestodes is available. Therefore records of *O. microcephala* in different herons needs confirmation. Descriptions of the cestodes from herons are absent in a number of publications. It is possible that some of these records represent different species of the family Hymenolepididae.