

***Metroliasthes lucida* in the Eastern Wild Turkey from Rhode Island**

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ABSTRACT: The cestode, *Metroliasthes lucida*, is reported for the first time from the eastern wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) in Rhode Island, United States; this is the first published record from New England. One of eight birds examined was infected with 10 cestodes.

Key words: *Metroliasthes lucida*, *Meleagris gallopavo*, eastern wild turkey, Rhode Island, cestodes, Dilepididae, new host record, geographic range extension.

According to many authors *Metroliasthes lucida* is one of the most commonly found cyclophyllidean cestodes of the wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) in the southeastern United States (Maxfield et al., 1963; Prestwood et al., 1975; Jackson et al., 1977; Castle and Christensen, 1984). Other records of this species from wild turkeys are from western Texas (Pence and Bickel, 1977) and southwestern New York (Rende and Eaton, 1985). Dixon and Hansen (1965) found *M. lucida* in chickens from Kansas. Records from Hawaii (Lewin and Holmes, 1971), Kenya (Round, 1962) and central Africa (Mettrick, 1963) indicate that this species is widespread both geographically and in different hosts.

In May 1986 we examined the viscera of eight hunter-killed eastern wild turkeys provided by the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife (West Kingston, Rhode Island 02892, USA). The viscera were refrigerated and examined within 24 hr post-mortem for helminths.

The intestine of one bird collected in Richmond, Rhode Island (41°32'N, 71°42'W) harbored 10 cestodes with mature strobila in the duodenum. These worms were fixed in Bouin's solution for 24 hr, washed and stored in 75% ethanol. They were subsequently stained with borax carmine, dehydrated and mounted in Canada balsam.

Using Schmidt's (1986) key the specimens were identified as *Metroliasthes lucida* (family Dilepididae). This is the first report of this species in the eastern wild turkey north of Virginia, except for the report of Rende and Eaton (1985) from southwestern New York. Voucher specimens have been deposited in the U.S. National Parasite Collection (Beltsville, Maryland 20705, United States; accession no. 79945).

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