

# A new species of *Mathevotaenia* (Cestoda, Anoplocephalidae) parasitizing *Tropidurus spinulosus* (Reptilia, Squamata) from northeastern Argentina

Una especie nueva de *Mathevotaenia* (Cestoda, Anoplocephalidae) parásita de *Tropidurus spinulosus* (Reptilia, Squamata) del noreste de Argentina

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**Abstract.** *Mathevotaenia chaquensis* n. sp. (Cestoda, Anoplocephalidae, Linstowiinae) from a Spiny Lava Lizard, *Tropidurus spinulosus*, collected in Chaco Province, Argentina, is described. This is the second species of *Mathevotaenia* described from Neotropical reptiles. The new species is mainly characterized by having a relatively small strobila, 24 mm in total length, with about 100 craspedote proglottids, and 19-24 testes per proglottid. Among the South American species of *Mathevotaenia*, *M. argentinensis* is most similar to the new species by having similar body length and number of testes, but the major differences between both species include the size of suckers, neck, proglottids, testes and egg capsules, and the shape of the genital atrium and ovary (with 10-13 lobules on each side in *M. argentinensis*, and 4-7 lobules in *M. chaquensis* n. sp.). A key to the species of the South American members of the *Mathevotaenia* Akumyan, 1946 is presented.

Key words: Mathevotaenia chaquensis n. sp., Linstowiinae, Spiny Lava Lizard, Tropiduridae, Chaco Province.

**Resumen.** *Mathevotaenia chaquensis* n. sp. (Cestoda, Anoplocephalidae, Linstowiinae) es descrita parasitando al lagarto de los quebrachales, *Tropidurus spinulosus*, procedente de la Provincia del Chaco, Argentina. Esta es la segunda especie de *Mathevotaenia* descrita parasitando reptiles Neotropicales. La nueva especie está caracterizada principalmente por tener un estróbilo relativamente pequeño, 24 mm de largo, con aproximadamente 100 proglótides craspedotas y 19-24 testículos por proglótide. Entre las especies sudamericanas de *Mathevotaenia*, *M. argentinensis* es la más semejante a la nueva especie por presentar similar longitud del cuerpo y número de testículos, pero difieren en el tamaño de las ventosas, cuello, proglótides, testículos y huevos. Además difieren en la forma del atrio genital y del ovario (10-13 lóbulos a cada lado en *M. argentinensis* vs. 4-7 lóbulos en *M. chaquensis* n. sp.). Se presenta una clave para la determinación de las especies sudamericanas de *Mathevotaenia Akumyan*, 1946.

Palabras clave: Mathevotaenia chaquensis n. sp., Linstowiinae, lagarto de los quebrachales, Tropiduridae, Provincia del Chaco.

### Introduction

The Spiny Lava Lizard, *Tropidurus spinulosus* (Cope), is a tropidurid that is distributed from Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay to central Argentina. It feeds mainly on insects Formicidae and Acrididae (Martori and Aun 1994). The helminth fauna of Spiny Lava Lizard is poorly known and the only record of helminths parasitizing it is that of *Strongyluris oscari* Travassos, 1923 (Nematoda-Heterakidae) (Sutton et al., 1998; Ávila and Silva, 2010). During a helminthological study of lizards from Chaco Province, Argentina, one species of anoplocephalid ces-

tode belonging to *Mathevotaenia* Akumyan, 1946, was collected from the small intestine of *T. spinulosus*; the aim of the present paper is to describe this new species.

The genus *Mathevotaenia* includes species that have been found parasitizing mainly mammals throughout the world (rodents, insectivores, edentates, carnivores, marsupials, bats, and primates), with isolated reports in reptiles and birds (Beveridge, 2008; Bursey et al., 2010; Goldberg et al., 2010). Also, Lamom and Greer (1986) reported one case of human infection by *Mathevotaenia* sp. in Bangkok, Thailand. According to Spasskii (1951) the life cycles of the species of *Mathevotaenia* involve insects, such as cockroaches and butterflies, as intermediate hosts in which amphicyst develop. Chervy (2002) analyzed the terminology applied to larval cestodes or

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metacestodes and considered that larvacyst of amphicyst type is a synonymous of precysticercus.

#### Materials and methods

Eleven specimens of Tropidurus spinulosus were collected between May 2005 and February 2010 during a survey of lizards in Pampa del Indio (26°16'33" S, 59°58' W), Chaco Province, Argentina. The lizards were dissected, the viscera fixed in 10% formalin and examined for helminths in the laboratory. One complete cestode specimen was collected, stained with hydrochloric carmine, dehydrated and mounted in Canada balsam. Measurements are given in micrometers (µm) unless otherwise stated, presented as the range. Drawings were made with the aid of a drawing tube. The hosts were deposited in the Herpetological Collection of the Universidad Nacional del Nordeste (UNNE), Corrientes Province, Argentina, and the parasite studied in the Helminthological collection of the Museo de La Plata (MLP), La Plata, Argentina.

The abbreviations of the measured features are as follows: Cpl - cirrus pouch length; Cpw - cirrus pouch width; Ecl - egg capsules length; Ecw - egg capsules width; Gad - genital atrium depth; Gaw - genital atrium width; Gpl - gravid proglottids length; Gpw - gravid proglottids width; Mpl - mature proglottids length; Mpw - mature proglottids width; Mw - maximum width; Nl - neck length; Nw - neck width; No p - number of proglottids; No te - number of testes; Onl - oncosphere length; Onw oncosphere width; Onhl - oncospheral hooks length; Ovl - ovary length; Ovw - ovary width; Sl - scolex length; Sw - scolex width; Sul - suckers length; Suw - suckers width; Tgpl - terminal gravid proglottids length; Tgpw - terminal gravid proglottids width; Tel - testes length; Tew - testes width; Tl - total length; Vgl - vitelline gland length; Vgw - vitelline gland width.

## Description

Family Anoplocephalidae Kholodkovskii, 1902 Subfamily Linstowiinae Fuhrmann, 1907

Mathevotaenia chaquensis n. sp. (Figs. 1-5; Table 1)

Diagnosis. Relatively small tapeworm. Scolex unarmed, poorly demarcated from strobila. Suckers oval with poorly muscular walls, each sucker inside a pocket that opens externally at most anterior part of structure through a slit. Neck long. Strobila apolytic with about 100 craspedote proglottids; velum up to 97 long. Immature proglottids protandric, wider than long. Mature proglottids wider than long, around 11; length-width ratio 1: 2-2.8. Gravid proglottids about 28 in number, wider than long; length-

width ratio 1:0.5-1: 0.8; last 2 gravid proglottids longer than wide; length-width ratio 1:1.3-1:1.4. Developing genitalia first visible in 43th proglottid. Genital pores alternate irregularly, near the anterior margin of proglottid. Genital atrium small, surrounded by radially directed muscle fibres. Cirrus pouch slender, transversely elongated, extends beyond excretory canals, not reaching midline of proglottids; internal vas deferens coiled within cirrus-sac; cirrus without visible spines. Testes clearly visible in proglottid 52 arranged in single intervascular field, posterior and lateral to vitelline gland, reaching posterior margin of ovary. Ovary in medial portion of proglottid, bilobed, with transverse isthmus; ovarian lobes with 4-7 short lateral lobules. Lobes of ovary not quite reaching lateral excretory canals. Vitelline gland medial, posterior to ovarian isthmus, compact appearance or with variable number of small rounded lobules. Seminal receptacle absent. Vagina posterior to cirrus pouch. Female genitalia and testes involute progressively in gravid proglottids, cirrus pouch, duct with spermatozoids and vagina persist in last 3 proglottids. Eggs in egg capsules scattered in parenchyma, occupying most of proglottid. Oncospheral hooks 15-18 long; hook blade 5-7 long; hook base 10-11 long.

Taxonomic summary

Type host: Tropidurus spinulosus (Cope), Spiny Lava Lizard (Reptilia, Squamata)

Type locality: Pampa del Indio (26°16'33" S, 59°58' W), Libertador General San Martín, Chaco Province, Argentina.

Site of infection: small intestine.

Date of collection: December 2005.

Prevalence: 9% (1 of 11).

Type specimen: holotype MLP 6505.

*Etymology:* the species name refers to Chaco Province (chaquensis= of Chaco), the locality in which it was found.

Remarks

The genus *Mathevotaenia* contains an uncertain number of species due to complex synonymies and because descriptions of some species are too poor to determine correct generic assignment (Beveridge, 2008; Bursey et al., 2010).

In South America, 15 species of this genus have been reported parasitizing marsupials, armadillos, monkeys and bats, and there are also 2 reports in reptiles. The species described parasitizing small mammals from Argentina are: *Mathevotaenia surinamensis* (Cohn, 1902) Spasskii, 1951, *Mathevotaenia diminuta* Navone, 1988, *Mathevotaenia matacus* Navone, 1988, *Mathevotaenia sanmartini* Jiménez, Braun, Campbell and Gardner, 2008 in armadillos (Dasypodidae) from Chaco, Corrientes,

Table 1. Comparative measurements of Mathevotaenia chaquensis n. sp. and other species of the genus from Argentina

Species	M. chaquensis n. sp.	M. surinamensis	M. diminuta	M. matacus	M. argentinensis	M. bivittata	M. sanmartini
Source	Present study	Navone (1988)	Navone (1988)	Navone (1988)	Campbell et al. (2003)	Campbell et al. (2003)	Jiménez et al. (2008)
Tl (mm)	24	150-170	100-150	160	18-37	13-15	91-212
N° p	100	_	_	_	135-163	37-49	200
Mw	619-744	232	_	_	1 000-1 500	960-1 350	1 123-2 427
Sl Sw	348 435	576-640	680-720	384-480 416-480	305-462 392-536	360-390 460-600	843-1 246 824-1 415
Sul Suw	115-145 105-126	176-250 diam.	200-224	160 diam.	152-197 222-256	225-291 201-228	302-399 236-336
NI Nw	580 339	_	_	_	1 100-1 200 320-370		950-1 848 374-805
Mpl Mpw	251-338 590-725	640-800 1 360-1 616	1260 864	528 2000	220-260 780-1 000	194-197 400-601	245-760 805-1 721
Gpl Gpw	358-580 725-774	1 330-1 680 1 600-2 080	_	2200 2 400	240-350 1 080-1 490	400-900 600-900	469-1 662 1 123-2 427
Tgpl Tgpw	793-947 629-725		_	_	640-1 330 570-650		1 144-3 272 970-2 394
Nº te	19-24	90-105	130-150	50	19-29	10-13	26-41
Tel Tew	24-36 33-48	32-64 diam.	60-64 diam.	48-64 diam.	37-70 25-39	23-31 30-41	54-96 44-96
Cpl Cpw	126-178 44-48	320-400 128-160	224-320 96-160	84 24	120-183 45-53	71-108 34-49	116-239 62-96
Gad Gaw	53-79 48-71	125 diam.	96-166 diam.	_	48-84 5-24	24-43 5-6	_
Ovl Ovw	82-116 266-271	176-203 diam	480-560 240-288	544-592 diam.	90-168 286-324	98-209 48-123	376-708 166-331
Vgl Vgw	33-43 60-71	240-320 80-128	240-272 144-192	 208-320	72-96 126-163	42-105 31-74	_
Onl Onw	24-29 diam.	24-28 diam.	24-28 diam.	20 diam.	15-23 26-32	19-23 15-17	15-38 15-34
Onhl	15-18	20	_	_	14.3-15	11.8	9-15
Ecl Ecw	41-45 diam	40 diam.	_ _	80-96 diam.	63-74 55-62	31-41 23-29	27-57 15-38
Hosts	T. spinulosus	D. novemcinctus	C. vellerosus	T. matacus	D. albiventris	M. demerarae M. murina Argentina	T. pallidior
Distrib.	Argentina	Argentina Brazil Surinam* USA	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina	Brazil CostaRica Bolivia Panamá	Argentina Bolivia

<sup>\*</sup>Referred to Surinam by Buchanan (1956), and Guinea by Spasskii (1951) and Navone (1988).

Formosa and Jujuy Provinces, and Mathevotaenia bivittata (Janicki, 1904) and Mathevotaenia argentinensis Campbell, Gardner and Navone, 2003 parasitizing marsupials (Didelphidae) from Salta and Santiago del Estero Provinces, respectively (Navone, 1988; Campbell et al., 2003; Jiménez et al., 2008). Also, Ezquiaga et al. (2009) reported the presence of *Mathevotaenia* sp. parasitizing Zaedyus pichiy Desmarest (Dasypodidae) from Mendoza Province. This report was based on the microscopic identification of eggs in the stool, but the eggs of this genus are indistinguishable from those produced by other Linstowiinae; therefore we consider their identification doubtful. Among these species, M. chaquensis n. sp. is most similar to M. argentinensis, a parasite of Didelphis albiventris Lund, and M. bivittata described in Micoureus demerarae Thomas (as M. cinereus) and Marmosa murina L. These species are similar in having small strobila and a reduced number of testes. However, M. argentinensis differs from M. chaquensis n. sp. in having larger suckers, a longer neck, larger testes visible in more posterior proglottids, a pronounced sphincter-like genital atrium, vitelline gland and ovary with higher number of lobules (8 and 10-13, respectively) and larger egg capsules (Table 1). The specimens of M. bivittata described by Campbell et al. (2003) differ from the specimen studied here by possessing a larger scolex and suckers, smaller onchospheres, egg capsules, oncospheral hooks, and cirrus pouch; ovary with a higher number of lobules (10-15), by the distribution of mature eggs in the proglottids, concentrated along their lateral margins, and by the persistence of the female genitalia in gravid proglottids (Table 1). Also, the new species differs from the specimens of M. bivittata described by Baer (1927), Gomes (1979) and Campbell et al. (2003) by having a smaller number of testes (5-8, 8-10 and 10-13, respectively). The remaining species of Mathevotaenia from Argentinean mammals, M. sanmartini a parasite of Thylamys pallidior (Thomas); M. surinamensis reported in Dasypus novemcinctus L., Dasypus sp., Priodontes maximus Kerr (as P. gigas) (Dasypodidae), Didelphis aurita Wied-Neuwied, and Didelphis marsupialis L.(Didelphidae); M. diminuta described from Chaetophractus vellerosus Gray, and M. matacus found parasitizing Tolypeutes matacus (Desmarest), can be readily distinguished from M. chaquensis n. sp. by possessing a larger strobila and a higher number of testes (Table 1). The other South American species of Mathevotaenia described in mammals are: Mathevotaenia didelphidis (Rudolphi) Spasskii, 1951 found parasitizing Thylamys elegans Waterhouse (as Marmosa e.) and M. murina (Didelphidae); Mathevotaenia marmosae (Beddard) Spasskii, 1951 a parasite of T. elegans (as Marmosa e.); Mathevotaenia tetragonocephala (Bremser) Spasskii,

1951 in Myrmecophaga tridactyla L. and Tamandua tetradactyla L. (Myrmecophagidae); Mathevotaenia paraguayae Schmidt and Martin, 1978 in Euphractus sexcinctus flavimanus Desmarest (Dasypodidae); Mathevotaenia megastoma (Diesing) Spasskii, 1951 from monkeys; Mathevotaenia brasiliensis Kugi and Sawada, 1970 in Saimiri sciureus L. (Primates: Cebidae); Mathevotaenia immatura Rego, 1963; Mathevotaenia boliviana Sawada and Harada, 1986 in Glossophaga soricina (Pallas) (Chiroptera: Phyllostomidae), and Mathevotaenia sp. in T. tetradactyla (Baer, 1927; Spasskii, 1951; Buchanan, 1956; Rego, 1963; Kugi and Sawada, 1970; Schmidt and Martin, 1978; Sawada and Harada, 1986; Beveridge, 2008; Bursey et al., 2010). Mathevotaenia marmosae, M. megastoma, M. brasiliensis and M. tetragonocephala differ from the new species in the total length of worms (84 mm to 650 mm) and number of testes (70 to 200). The specimens of M. immatura and M. boliviana can be distinguished from the specimen here described by having a smaller size (1.6-3.9 mm), fewer proglottids, larger suckers, smaller oncospheral hooks and egg capsules (Table 2). Mathevotaenia chaquensis n. sp. closely resembles M. paraguayae in the total length of strobila (24 mm vs. 20-25 mm), and number of testes (19-24 vs. 16-25). However, the major differences between the 2 species include the relative shape of mature proglottids, that is longer than wide in M. paraguayae according to the drawing of the proglottid (see Fig. 2 in Schmidt and Martin, 1978) vs. mature proglottids wider than long in M. chaquensis; presence of seminal receptacle in M. paraguayae vs. absence of seminal receptacle in M. chaquensis; an ovary not bilobed with about 21 digitiform lobules in M. paraguayae (see Fig. 2 in Schmidt and Martin, 1978) vs. ovary bilobed with 4-7 short lobules in M. chaquensis. In addition, M. chaquensis differs from these Paraguayan specimens in having smaller suckers, vitelline gland and egg capsules in M. chaquensis (115-145 x 105-126 vs. 150-200 x 140-190; 33-43 x 60-71 vs. 40-50 x 90-100; 41-45 vs. 60-80, respectively), a longer neck (580 vs. 400), a larger scolex and genital atrium (348 x 435 vs. 215-280 x 375-465; 53-79 x 48-71 vs. 40-50 x 10). A comparison of the 2 species is given in Table 2. In this paper, the new species is not compared with M. didelphidis since its scolex is unknown, and the descriptions provided by Baer (1927) and Spasskii (1951) disagree on the position of the testes (anterior to female gonad vs. posterior to it). Therefore, we believe that new studies of type material or of new specimens collected from type host are required.

At present, only 2 reports of *Mathevotaenia* have been made from Neotropical reptiles, *Mathevotaenia* sp. mentioned as parasite of *Anolis humilis* (Peters) (Squamata:

Polychrotidae) from Nicaragua and *Mathevotaenia panamensis* Bursey, Goldberg and Telford, 2010 parasitizing *Sceloporus malachiticus* Cope (Squamata, Phrynosomatidae) from Panama (Goldberg et al., 2010; Bursey et al., 2010). The specimens of *M. panamensis* are similar in size to the specimen here described (22-29 mm vs. 24 mm), but differ by having fewer testes per proglottid (10-16 vs. 19-24), persistence of female genitalia in gravid proglottids, mature eggs concentrated along the lateral

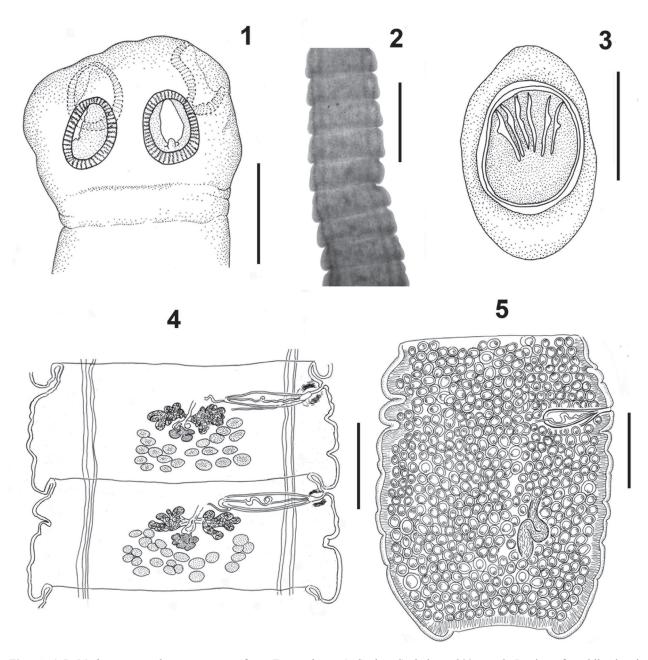
margins of the proglottids, and also by significant morphometrical differences, i.e. larger size of ovary (51-78 x 120-154 vs. 82-116 x 266-271), vitelline gland (26-34 x 65-78 vs. 63 x 82), cirrus pouch (40-49 in diam. vs. 126-178 x 44-48), genital atrium (25-30 x 8-12 vs. 53-79 x 48-71, oncosphere (15-18 vs. 24-29), egg capsules (27-30 vs. 41-45), oncospheral hooks (10-12 vs. 15-18).

This finding constitutes the first report of the genus *Matevothaenia* parasitizing reptiles from Argentina.

Key to the South American species of <i>Mathevotaenia</i>	
1 - With 10-41 testes.	
1'- With 60-200 testes.	8
2- Size of body smaller; strobila to 4 mm. Parasites of bats.	
2'- Size of body greater; strobila to 10 mm. Parasites of mammals or reptiles	4
3 - With 6-9 proglottids; scolex 360 x 435; testes 10 in number. In Phyllostomic 3'- With 16-19 proglottids; scolex 761 x 802; testes 16- 20 in number. In Phyll	
4 - Ovary not bilobed	5
4'- Ovary bilobed	
5- Ovary with about 21 digitiform lobules; testes 16-25 in number. Egg ca parenchyma. Female genitalia not persistent in gravid proglottids. In Dasyp	oodidae
	1. paraguayae Schmidt and Martin, 1978
5'- Ovary with a total of 10–15 short lobules; testes 10-13 in number. Mature eg of the proglottids. Female genitalia persistent in gravid proglottids. In Dide 6 - Ovary with up to 13 digitiform lobules on each side. Cirrus spinose. In Dide	elphidaeM. bivittata (Janicki, 1904)
6'- Ovary with 4-7 rounded lobules on each side. Cirrus aspinose. In Tropidurid	ae
7 - Testes 26-41 in number. Body 91-212 mm in lengthM. sanmartini Jimé	enez, Braun, Campbell and Gardner, 2008
7'- Testes 19-29 in number. Body 18-37 mm in length	sis Campbell, Gardner and Navone, 2003
8 - Testes 60-80 in number.	9
8'- More than 80 testes.	
9 - Testes 60 in number. Ovary multilobed. Body approximately 160 mm in leng	
9'- Testes 70-80 in number. Ovary in fan-shaped. Body 150-400 mm in	length. Cirrus pouch 160-225 long. In
Myrmecophagidae	
10 - Parasites of Didelphidae or Dasypodidae.	
10'- Parasites of several monkey species.	
11 - Cirrus spinose; body to 84 mm in length. In Didelphidae	
11' Cirrus aspinous; body more than 100 mm. In Dasypodidae.	
12 - Body 150-170 mm in length; testes 90-105 in number	
12'- Body 100-150 mm in length; testes 130-150 in number	
13 - Testes 130-150 in number. Egg capsules 91-98 x 95-98. In Cebidae	
13'- Testes 160-200 in number. Egg capsules 46 x 49. In Cebidae, Atelidae, Pithe	eciidaeM. megastoma (Diesing, 1850)

Table 2. Comparative measurements of Mathevotaenia species from other South American hosts

Species	M. chaquensis	M. marmosae	M. tetragonocephala	M. paraguayae	M. megastoma	M. brasiliensis	M. immatura	M. boliviana
Source	Present study	Spasskii (1951)	Spasskii (1951)	Schmidt and Martin (1978)	Spasskii (1951)	Kugi and Sawada (1970)	Rego (1963)	Sawada and Harada (1986)
Tl (mm)	24	84	150-400	20-25	059	95-113	2.02-3.30	1.6-3.9
N° p	100	I	appr. 140	up to 110	appr. 700	360-450	6-9	16-19
Mw	619-744	3 000	I	750-800	4000	1 500-2 300	I	000-2009
SI Sw	348 435		850-1 500 diam.	215-280 375-465	660 diam.	350-490 249-263	360 435	761 802
Sul Suw	115-145 105-126	1 1	1 1	150-200 140-190	1 1	105-236 diam.	165 150	332-346 290
Z X ×	580 339	11	1 1	400	4000	490-520 105	285 300	11
Mpl Mpw	251-338 590-725		1.1	1 1		11	615 90-262	11
Gpl Gpw	358-580 725-774	11	7 000 4 000	1.1	11	11	1 1	1.1
Tgpl Tgpw	793-947 629-725		1 1	1 1	1 1	11	1 1	
N° te	19-24	100	70-80	16-25	160-200	130-150	10	16-20
Tel Tew	24-36 33-48		1.1	30-60 diam.	11	42-55 diam.	22-26 diam.	49-63 35-42
Cpl Cpw	126-178 44-48	1 1	160-225 80	100-160 30-80	110-150 90	207-249 69-97	82 52	119-140 49-63
Gad Gaw	53-79 48-71		150 10	40-50 10		11	1 1	
Ovl Ovw	82-116 266-271	11	1.1	90-120 220-280	1.1	387-429	09	259
Vgl Vgw	33-43 60-71	1 1	1 1	40-50 90-100	1 1	82 97	41 48	70-81 105-140
Onl Onw	24-29 diam.		1 1	22-35 diam.	1 1	35 32-42	31 24	21-28 25-28
Onhl	15-18		I	16-18		18-21	11	11
Ecl Ecw	41-45 diam	1 1	1 1	08-09	46 49	91-98 95-98		32-35 28-32
Hosts	T. spinulosus	T. elegans	M. tridactyla T. tetradactyla	E. sexcinctus flavimanus	Cebidae Atelidae	Saimiri sciureus L.	G. soricina	G. soricina
Distrib.	Argentina	Brazil	South America	Paraguay	Pitheciidae South America	Brazil	Brazil	Bolivia



**Figures 1-5.** *Mathevotaenia chaquensis* n. sp. from *T. spinulosus*. 1. Scolex. Scale-bars: 200 μm. 2. Portion of strobila showing craspedote immature proglottids. Scale-bars: 200 μm. 3. Egg surrounded by outer egg capsule. Scale-bars: 30 μm. 4. Mature proglottids. Scale-bars: 200 μm. 5. Last gravid proglottid. Scale-bars: 200 μm.

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