Are Geckos Paratenic Hosts for Caribbean Island Acanthocephalans? Evidence from *Gonatodes antillensis* and a Global Review of Squamate Reptiles Acting as Transport Hosts

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ABSTRACT

It is well known that reptiles can act as paratenic hosts for parasites that use mammals as their definitive hosts. However, studies of potential paratenic hosts in the Caribbean have been temporally restricted to only diurnal species of lizards, thereby neglecting a dominant component of the nocturnal reptilian community: geckos. Many gecko species are human commensals with activity periods that overlap temporally with those of domestic cats, making them prime candidates as potential transport hosts for cat parasites. However, no studies have reported geckos as paratenic hosts for felid parasites on any Caribbean island. Here we report the first records of subcutaneous oligacanthorhynchid cystacanths on the Venezuelan Coastal Clawed Gecko (*Gonatodes antillensis*) based on specimens collected in Curaçao and Bonaire. The cysts were identified as belonging to the genus *Oncicola*, likely those of *Oncicola venezuelensis.* This study reports these geckos as a new host record for oligacanthorhynchid cystacanths, as well as Curaçao and Bonaire as new geographic locales for these acanthocephalan parasites. We additionally provide a review of saurian cystacanths, comparing the restricted taxonomic focus of transport hosts in Caribbean islands to the distribution of paratenic squamate hosts both in the Neotropics and globally. We find evidence that the ability of squamate reptiles to act as transport hosts is a pervasive feature across their Tree of Life, suggesting that these animals may serve as important vectors for transporting parasites between intermediate and definitive hosts.

KEYWORDS

Acanthocephala, intestinal helminths, cats, parasite, trophic transmission, mammals, birds, host–parasite interactions, vector species

Introduction

The transport of parasites by non-definitive transport, or paratenic, hosts creates an opportunity for parasitic organisms to utilize and potentially establish novel transmission pathways (Marcogliese 2007; Parker et al. 2015; Cable et al. 2017). Although it is well established that nonmammalian vertebrates often act as paratenic hosts for a variety of mammalian parasites (Bolt et al. 1993; Anderson 2000; Strube et al. 2013), baseline data associating these species and the parasites they are transporting are uncommon across the Caribbean. This lack of data creates a knowledge gap that challenges our ability to accurately forecast the spread of internal parasites to both domestic animals and wildlife. In particular, despite the high potential of reptiles acting as paratenic hosts to the acanthocephalan parasites of cats and dogs, these potential transmission vectors have received little attention. To date, studies of lizards as paratenic hosts in the Caribbean have been restricted to

TABLE 1. Institution and catalog numbers of *Gonatodes antillensis* specimens examined in this study. *Abbreviations:* CAS, California Academy of Sciences; LACM, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County; MCZ, Museum of Comparative Zoology; NCMNS, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences; RMNH, Naturalis Biodiversity Center (former Rijksmuseum voor Natuurlijke Historie); UMMZ, University of Michigan Museum of Zoology; USNM, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution; YPM HERR, Division of Vertebrate Zoology Herpetology Reptile Collection, Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University.

Institution code	Specimen numbers
CAS	113319–113345
LACM	126062–126078
MCZ	R-141593, R-141600, R-149268, R-149349, R-149351, R-149367, R-149369–R-149371, R-27548, R-60579, R-69577, R-69580, R-69581, R-69583, R-69584, R-69586, R-69587, R-69592, R-69596, R-69597, R-81514, R-82968, R-82969, R-82971, R-82973, R-82974, R-82976, R-82978, R-82979
NCMNS	89384–89387, 89390, 89392–89412, 89419–89443, 89445–89448, 89452, 89491
RMNH	13421, 14742A–B, 16682A–B, 18000, 18001A–C, 18002, 18004, 18008
UMMZ	57317–57345, 127795, 127796, 142675, 151501, 179309–179314
USNM	79231, 94980
YPM	YPM HERR 017579–017584, YPM HERR 018188–018199, YPM HERR 018438–018449, YPM HERR 018451–018460, YPM HERR 018603–018606, YPM HERR 018640–018644

diurnal species such as various species of *Anolis* or *Ameiva* (Dobson et al. 1992; Goldberg et al. 1998a; Nickol et al. 2006). This temporal bias neglects an important nocturnal component of Caribbean lizard communities: geckos.

With more than 1,600 species, geckos represent one of the most successful radiations of lizards and are common commensal organisms in urban and suburban landscapes worldwide (Gamble et al. 2012). Although several studies have found geckos to harbor cystacanths of acanthocephalans in Southeast Asia (Saehoong and Wongsawad 1997; Mahagedara and Rajakaruna 2015), Africa (Oluwafemi et al. 2017), Australia (Barton 2015), South America (Anjos et al. 2005), or Central America (Goldberg and Bursey 2004a; Bursey et al. 2007), no studies have investigated whether Caribbean island species act as paratenic hosts. Given both the spatial and temporal overlap of many Caribbean species with domestic and feral cats, geckos make likely paratenic host candidates. Ground-dwelling species may be particularly vulnerable to felid predation, making an assessment of their parasite transmission potential of high utility for veterinary and wildlife medicine. Herein we examine whether the ground-dwelling Venezuelan Coastal Clawed Gecko (*Gonatodes antillensis*; Lidth de Jeude 1887) acts as paratenic host for acanthocephalan parasites by using a combination of field-collected and museum specimens. To place our findings into a broader context, we provide a review of all known Caribbean island squamates as well a global survey of squamates that have been found to act as paratenic hosts for acanthocephalans.

Methods

As part of an ongoing study of the ecology and evolutionary biology of geckos on the southern Caribbean island of Curaçao (Dornburg et al. 2011, 2016; Lamb et al. 2017), we collected a total of 140 *Gonatodes antillensis* between 2011 and 2017 from 10 locales across Curaçao, which were deposited in the Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA, and the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh, North Carolina, USA (Table 1). All specimens were visually inspected on collection, and those containing subcutaneous cysts were documented (Figure 1). To determine the historic prevalence of similar subcutaneous cysts, we were aided by collection staff who collectively visually inspected the specimen holdings of the Division of Vertebrate Zoology Herpetology Reptile Collection, Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History; the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University,

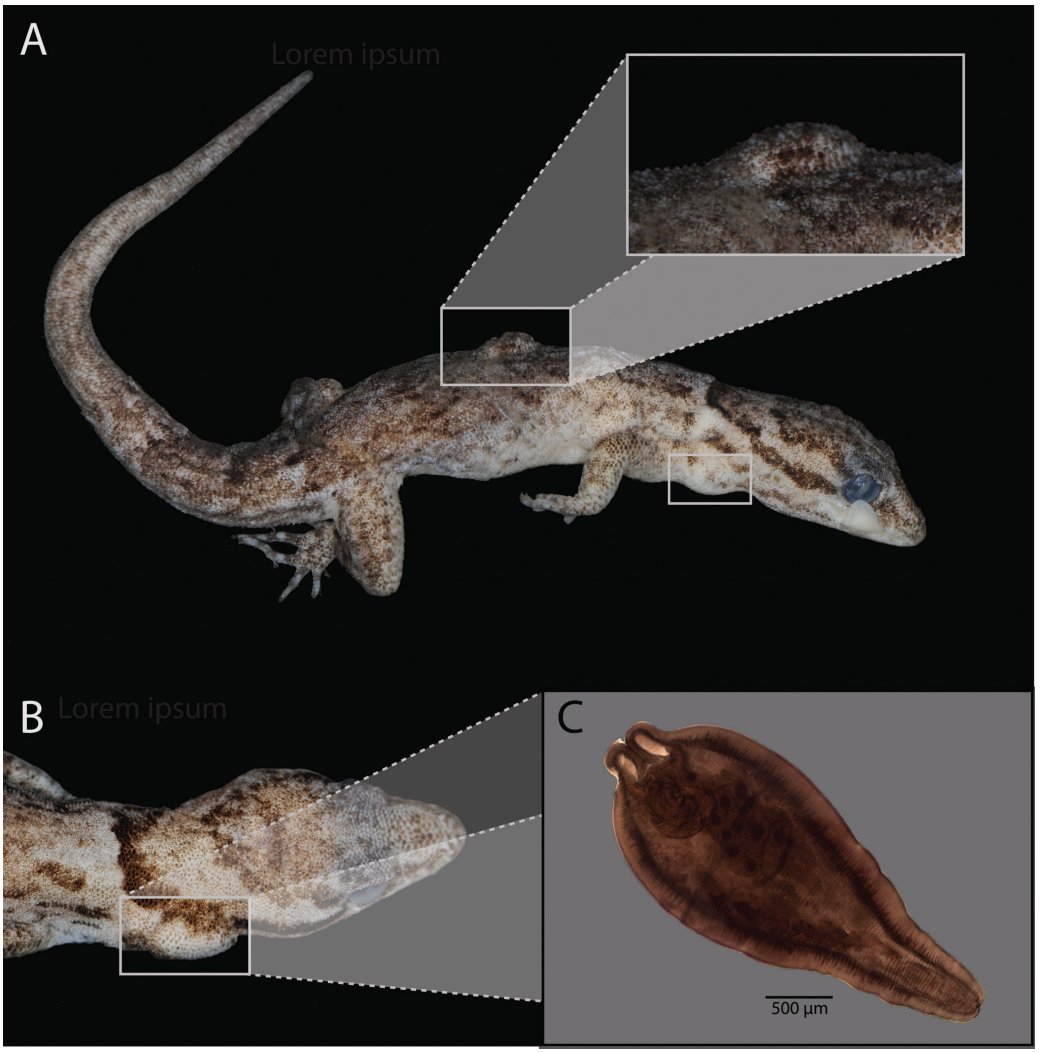

FIGURE 1. *Oncicola* cystacanths in *Gonatodes antillensis*. **A.** Individual *G. antillensis* with visible subcutaneous cystacanths highlighted. **B.** Dorsal view of *G. antillensis*. **C.** Slide of *Oncicola* cystacanth extracted from a cyst.

Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA; National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA; the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, California, USA; the Naturalis Biodiversity Center (former Rijksmuseum voor Natuurlijke Historie), Leiden, Netherlands; the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, USA; and the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA, for specimens with similar subcutaneous cysts (Table 1). Subcutaneous cysts found in any samples were excised and sent to the parasitology laboratory at the College of Veterinary Medicine at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina, USA, for identification. Larval acanthocephalans (cystacanths) were extracted from cysts with the aid of a dissecting microscope. Cystacanths were stained with Semichon's carmine, dehydrated in an ethanol series, cleared in xylene and mounted in balsam for identification. Identifications were based on taxonomic keys and descriptions (Schmidt 1972, 1985; Nickol and Dunagan 1989; Smales 1997; Nickol et al. 2006; Santos et al. 2017). Comparative voucher specimens (HWML 48252, 48254, 48256, 48257, 48258, 49710) were borrowed from the Harold W. Manter Laboratory for

Parasitology, University of Nebraska State Museum, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA (HWML).

To place our results into context, we compiled a list of all known paratenic saurian hosts for oligacanthorhynchid and centrorhynchid cystacanths across all Caribbean islands. These two groups represent two major radiations of acanthocephalans infecting terrestrial vertebrates that prey on squamates (mammals and birds; Petrochenko 1956), and would therefore be likely to co-opt squamates as transport hosts. Searches were conducted using Google Scholar and ISI Web of Knowledge using the following key terms: lizard, cystacanth, Caribbean, transport host, paratenic, saurian, gecko, *Anolis*, Iguanidae, snake, helminth, squamate, reptile, Acanthocephala, Oligantho-hynchidae and *Centrorhynchus*. Additionally, references within each found document were checked for additional publications not captured by our key terms. Although additional key search terms are certainly possible, no additional terms we attempted yielded new reports. We further searched the Harold W. Manter Laboratory of Parasitology and the United States National Parasite Collection, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, for records not reported in the primary literature. This search was then expanded to compare Caribbean records to all records of these parasites in squamate reptiles globally.

Results

Across our survey of the 140 Venezuelan Coastal Clawed Geckos collected from Curaçao, only specimens (6 of 22) from one locale, Director's Bay, possessed subcutaneous cysts (Figure 2). Cysts were primarily located below the anterior surface of the neck and laterally along the main body, with several specimens also exhibiting cysts near the posterior insertion of the humerus with the scapula. Visual inspections of museum specimens for geckos that possessed subcutaneous cysts (Table 1) yielded only one specimen from the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA (UMMZ 179309). That gecko had been collected in 1984 from Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, and we found it to contain three previously undocumented subcutaneous cysts. Morphological characteristics (i.e., size, shape, proboscis hooks) of extracted cystacanths indicate inclusion in the family Oligacanthorhynchidae and the genus *Oncicola*. The long length of the lemnisci (Nickol et al. 2006) and the subcutaneous site of infection in Caribbean saurian hosts are suggestive of *Oncicola venezuelensis* (Marteau 1977). Unfortunately, the proboscis of our cystacanth specimens remained inverted, preventing a definitive species diagnosis. All cystacanth specimens were deposited in the Division of Invertebrate Zoology, Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History (YPM IZ 102933–102938).

Results of our literature and database survey yielded 15 publications and 4 museum records containing information on paratenic saurian hosts on Caribbean islands (Table 2). *Anolis* was the most frequently represented genus, with 21 species reported as paratenic hosts. Of these, only three species were reported with oligacanthorhynchid cystacanths, whereas all 21 *Anolis* species as well as a species of *Ameiva* and the snake *Leimadophis reginae* were reported with centrorhynchid cystacanths (Table 2). No subcutaneous centrorhynchid infections were reported. In contrast, both our findings for *Gonatodes antillensis* and prior work in *Anolis cristatellus* and *Anolis stratulus* reported subcutaneous infections (Table 2).

The results of our search of paratenic hosts globally yielded 202 records that spanned 35 countries and 184 species (Appendix). The United States was the most represented country with 36 records, followed by Costa Rica with 33 (Appendix). We found records of 119 species possessing oligacanthorhynchid and 75 species possessing *Centrorhynchus* infections (Appendix). Infections in the body cavity (coelom) were most common in both oligacanthorhynchid and centrorhynchid infections, respectively representing 60% and 50% of the reported records. Ophidians were the most reported group of squamates (56%), followed by iguanians (19%) and lacertoids (13%). Only a single record of a centrorhynchid cyst was found for another *Gonatodes*, with *Hemidactylus* the most frequently represented (54%) gecko genus (Appendix).

Discussion

Understanding the transmission pathways that parasites can utilize to move between hosts at

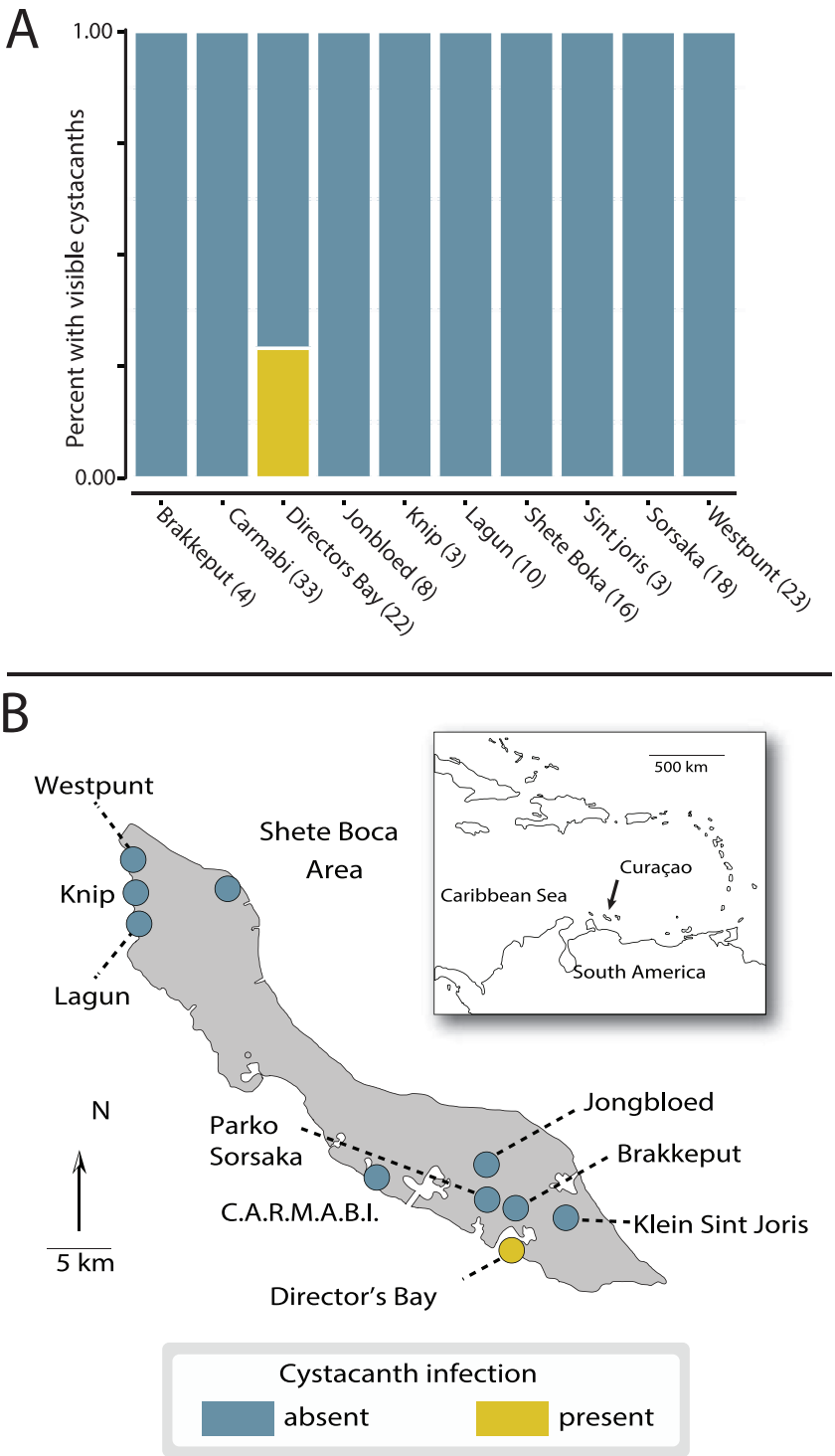

FIGURE 2. Frequency and spatial distribution of *Oncicola* cystacanths in Curaçao detected from our surveys and museum specimens. **A.** Frequency of cystacanths per site. **B.** Location of sites on the island. Blue indicates absence of cystacanths and yellow indicates presence of cystacanths. *Abbreviation:* CARMABI, Caribbean Research and Management of Biodiversity.

TABLE 2. Cystacanths found in squamate hosts on Caribbean islands. The abbreviations used indicate records from the Harold W. Manter Laboratory for Parasitology (HWML) and United States National Parasite Collection (USNPM). Rows with boldface text indicate records from present study.

Cystacanth	Host	Site of infection	Island	Reference
Oligacanthorhynchid	*Anolis acutus*	Coelom	St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands	Goldberg et al. 1997a
	Anolis cristatellus	Subcutaneous	St. Thomas and St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands	Fuller et al. 2003; Nickol et al. 2006
		Peritoneum	British Virgin Islands	Goldberg et al. 1998a
	Anolis stratulus	Subcutaneous	St. Thomas and St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands	Fuller et al. 2003; Nickol et al. 2006
	Gonatodes antillensis	**Subcutaneous**	**Curaçao**	**Present study**
	Gonatodes antillensis	**Subcutaneous**	**Bonaire**	**Present study**
Centrorhynchid	*Ameiva ameiva*		Trinidad, Bahamas	Everard 1975; HWML 34618
	Anolis acutus	Coelom	St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands	Goldberg et al. 1997a
	Anolis aeneus	Coelom	Grenada	Goldberg et al. 1997b
	Anolis armouri	Coelom	Haiti	Goldberg, Bursey and Cheam 1996
	Anolis bahorucoensis	Coelom	Dominican Republic	Goldberg, Bursey and Cheam 1996
	Anolis bimaculatus	Intestine	St. Eustatius	Dobson et al. 1992; Dobson and Pacala 1992
	Anolis cristatellus	Body cavity	Puerto Rico	Acholonu 1976
		Peritoneum	British Virgin Islands	Goldberg et al. 1998a
		Body cavity	Hispaniola	Goldberg et al. 1998b
		Body cavity	Dominican Republic	USNPM 087547
	Anolis etheridgei	Body cavity	Hispaniola	Goldberg et al. 1998b
		Coelom	Dominican Republic	USNPM 087349
	Anolis eugenegrahami	Body cavity	Hispaniola	Goldberg et al. 1998b
	Anolis garmani	Coelom	Jamaica	Bundy et al. 1987
	Anolis gingivinus	Coelom	Anguilla	Goldberg et al. 1997b
	Anolis grahami	Coelom	Jamaica	Bundy et al. 1987
	Anolis leachii	Intestine	Antigua	Dobson et al. 1992; Dobson and Pacala 1992
	Anolis lineatopus	Coelom	Jamaica	Bundy et al. 1987; Vogel and Bundy 1987
	Anolis lividus	Intestine	Montserrat	Dobson et al. 1992; Dobson and Pacala 1992
	Anolis monticola	Body cavity	Hispaniola	Goldberg et al. 1998b
	Anolis oculatus	Body cavity	Dominica	Goldberg and Bursey 1996; Goldberg et al. 1997b
	Anolis richardii	Coelom	Grenada	Goldberg et al. 1997b

Continued

Table 2 continued.

Cystacanth	Host	Site of infection	Island	Reference
Centrorhynchid	*Anolis sagrei*	Coelom	Jamaica	Bundy et al. 1987
		Body cavity	Andros Island, Bahamas	Goldberg et al. 1994
	Anolis schwartzi	Intestine	St. Eustatius	Dobson et al. 1992; Dobson and Pacala 1992
	Anolis valencienni	Coelom	Jamaica	Bundy et al. 1987
	Anolis wattsii	Intestine	Antigua	Dobson et al. 1992; Dobson and Pacala 1992
	Leimadophis reginae		Trinidad and Tobago	HWML 33903

different life stages is a fundamental component of both veterinary and human medicine. Our study represents the first documentation of *Oncicola* in *Gonatodes antillensis* and the first record of a Caribbean island gecko acting as a paratenic host for acanthocephalans. While definitive hosts of *Oncicola* species include felids and birds, *Oncicola venezuelensis* is known only from felids, specifically domestic cats and ocelots (*Leopardus pardalis*) (Marteau 1977; Patton et al. 1986; Fuller and Nickol 2011; Santos et al. 2017). Rep (1975) reported *Oncicola* from cats in the Leeward Antilles, providing evidence that this parasite has likely been on the islands for at least four decades. Our finding of an additional *Oncicola* cystacanth from a specimen collected in 1984 from the island of Bonaire provides additional evidence that the Venezuelan Coastal Clawed Gecko has been acting as a paratenic host for nearly as long. However, this raises the question of the role *G. antillensis* plays in the life cycle of *Oncicola*.

Oncicola venezuelensis utilizes termites of the genus *Nasutitermes* as intermediate hosts, with transmission facilitated through the encounter of infected fecal matter (Fuller and Nickol 2011). Parasitized termites have been found to be more vulnerable to lizard predation (Fuller et al. 2003), and laboratory studies have demonstrated that ingestion of infected termites by lizards will result in transmission (Nickol et al. 2006). Unfortunately, the natural history of *Gonatodes antillensis* has received little attention outside of a few studies of basic ecology and reproductive biology (Bennett and Gorman 1979; Van Buurt 2005; Lamb et al. 2017), and resolution of the feeding ecology of *G. antillensis* is broadly classified as comprising small invertebrates (Van Buurt 2005). Although diets of *G. antillensis* have not been studied explicitly, termites of the genus *Nasutitermes* are considered native to Curaçao (Van Buurt and Debrot 2012) and species of *Gonatodes* for which diets are known have all been documented to eat termites (Quesnel 1957; Vitt et al. 2000; Miranda and Andrade 2003). This suggests that the feeding ecology of *G. antillensis* may predispose this species as a transmission vector for *O. venezuelensis*. Further studies of the feeding ecology of this gecko are needed to test this hypothesis.

Given that no native felid species occur in the Leeward Antilles, domestic cats likely represent the only definitive host of *Oncicola venezuelensis*

on these islands. This suggests a life cycle of *O. venezuelensis* beginning in a termite that has encountered infected fecal matter. Infected termites are then ingested by *Gonatodes antillensis,* which acts as a paratenic host, and the parasite is ultimately transmitted to domestic cats to restart the cycle. This intermediate termite to paratenic lizard to definitive cat host life cycle has been proposed for *Oncicola* on other Caribbean islands (Fuller and Nickol 2011), adding a veterinary health concern to the global conservation concern of predation by feral cats driving reptile extirpation (Gibbon et al. 2000; Medina et al. 2011). Although cat predation on *G. antillensis* has not been reported, many studies have described feral cat predation on geckos (Bonnaud et al. 2011; Kutt 2011), including other species of *Gonatodes* (Alonso et al. 2009). As such, the likelihood of at least some felid predation events is certainly not negligible. Additionally, we observed a high frequency of feral cats at the Director's Bay site where all cystacanth-containing *G. antillensis* specimens were collected. Although cat frequencies and habitat characteristics were not quantified, this was by far the most ecologically degraded site of all sampling locations, with large amounts of trash and debris scattered throughout. Large quantities of garbage are known to attract cats by providing food resources, thereby increasing the risk of pathogen infections (Plaza and Lambertucci 2017). The condition of this site could explain the high frequency of infection as the harsh arid conditions of the island might prevent aggregations of feral cats in nonurbanized settings. Further, *Nasutitermes* termites have repeatedly been found to be among the most common termites in highly disturbed or degraded habitats worldwide (de Souza and Brown 1994; Eggleton et al. 1995; Bandeira et al. 2003), suggesting that this site could constitute a perfect storm for acanthocephalan transmission potential.

Paratenic Parasitism of Squamates and the Helminth Life Cycle

The results of our literature and database survey suggest squamates to represent an underappreciated component of the ecology and life cycle of acanthocephalans (Appendix). We found records from 184 species of squamates acting as potential transmission vectors in 35 countries (Appendix). These species span the squamate Tree of Life, further suggesting that this mode of transmission may be a pervasive squamate-wide phenomenon. Of all squamate groups, snakes were the most frequently represented. However, this should not be taken to imply that snakes are particularly prone to acting as paratenic hosts, as a survey based on the combined pool of natural history notes and museum records cannot account for sampling biases (Dornburg et al. 2017). Further work is needed to discern geographic, taxonomic and life history-based biases in sampling efforts and complete a more robust understanding of patterns in paratenic parasitism in squamates globally. However, comparing the restricted taxonomic focus of transport hosts in Caribbean islands to the distribution of paratenic hosts both in the Neotropics and globally (Appendix) strongly suggests a significant knowledge gap in the region.

To date, our knowledge of squamates acting as paratenic hosts on Caribbean islands has been limited to records from *Anolis* and a single lacertoid and ophidian (Table 2). Our study expands the reservoir of potential Caribbean transport hosts to include geckos of the genus *Gonatodes*. Cystacanths of *Centrorhynchus* have previously been found in *Gonatodes albogularis* in Panama; however, our record is the first instance of *Oncicola*. Further, *G. albogularis* is diurnal whereas *G. antillensis* is nocturnal (Van Buurt 2005), thereby overlapping in diel activity with the other geckos found in our survey (Appendix). Of the other nocturnal geckos encountered in our survey, geckos of the genus *Hemidactylus* are of particular note as potential transmission vectors. *Hemidactylus* geckos have invaded tropical ecosystems worldwide and have been documented to prey on other geckos (Bolger and Case 1992; Dornburg et al. 2011, 2016), including *G. antillensis* in Curaçao (Dornburg et al. 2011), making this an additional prime candidate for investigation. More broadly, our survey of paratenic squamate hosts undoubtedly underestimates the extent to which squamates act as paratenic hosts.

The ability of acanthocephalan species to infect nondefinitive hosts while remaining transmittable offers a solution to the ecological problem of transitioning between different feeding guilds at different trophic levels between life stages. Many acanthocephalans such as *Oncicola* begin their life cycle in arthropod intermediate

hosts, yet require birds or mammals feeding at higher trophic levels for their adult stage (Schmidt 1985). The results of our survey and instances of paratenic parasitism by other parasites with similar complex life histories (e.g., Marcogleise 2002; Choisy et al. 2003; Cirtwill et al. 2017) reiterates a question: When do parasitic lineages evolve to co-opt pathways of energy flow across community food webs to reach their target definitive hosts? It should not be surprising that squamates are broadly used as transport hosts, as these often represent direct links between lower trophic level consumers (e.g., arthropods) and higher level vertebrate predators (Watkins-Colwell et al. 2006). Given that we found documented instances of squamate paratenic parasitism that span the globe, we suggest that investigating the ecology and evolution of paratenic parasitism in squamates represents a potentially rich area of research in the evolution of parasite transmission pathways of high importance to both wildlife and human medicine.

Acknowledgments

We thank Mark Vermeij and the staff of CARMABI for facilitating collecting and permitting, the Westpunt syndicate for help with fieldwork, Bryan Stuart for help with specimen curation and imaging of *Gonatodes antillensis* specimens and Gregory Schneider at the University of Michigan, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, Museum of Zoology, for his aid with specimen loans. We additionally thank Lauren Scheinberg at the California Academy of Sciences, Neftali Camacho at the Los Angeles County Museum and Rayna Bell of the Smithsonian Institution for checking specimens of *G. antillensis* for external cysts. Also, Gabor Racz and Scott Gardener of the Harold W. Manter Laboratory of Parasitology for the loan of *Oncicola venezuelensis* specimens.

Received 16 May 2018; revised and accepted 26 September 2018.

Appendix

Oligacanthorhynchid, centrorhynchid and unknown cystacanths from paratenic squamate hosts outside of the Caribbean. A dagger (†) indicates reference listed in Schmidt (1985). The abbreviations used indicate records from the Harold W. Manter Laboratory for Parasitology (HWML) and United States National Parasite Collection (USNPM); HWML or USNPM with referenced studies indicate linked specimens.

Cystacanth	Clade	Host species	Site of infection	Location	Reference
Unknown	Gekkota	*Hemidactylus frenatus*	Intestine	Australia	Barton 2015
		Hemidactylus mabouia	Intestine	Tanzania	Simonsen and Sarda 1985
	Iguania	*Sceloperus grammicus*	Muscle	USA, Texas	Goldberg et al. 1995
		Sceloperus merriami	Small intestine	USA, Texas	Goldberg et al. 1995
		Urosaurus auriculatus	Body cavity	Mexico	Goldberg and Bursey 2012a
		Uta stansburiana	Body cavity	USA, California	Goldberg et al. 1999
	Lacertoidea	*Aspidoscelis dixoni*	Mesentery/muscle	USA, Texas	McAllister et al. 1991
		Aspidoscelis gularis	Body cavity	USA, Texas	McAllister 1990a
		Aspidoscelis neomexicanus	Muscle fascia	USA, New Mexico	McAllister 1990b
		Aspidoscelis septemvittatus	Muscle fascia	USA, Texas	McAllister et al. 1995
		Aspidoscelis tigris	Coelom	USA, Arizona	Benes 1985
		Eremias pleskei		Turkey	Düşen et al. 2013
	Ophidia	*Bothrops moojeni*	Small intestine	Brazil	Silva 2014
		Crotalus atrox	Mesentery	USA, New Mexico	Goldberg et al. 2002
		Chironius quadricarinatus	Small intestine	Brazil	Silva 2014
		Erythrolamprus poecilogyrus	Body cavity	Brazil	Silva 2014
		Mimophis mahfalensis	Mesenteries	Madagascar	McAllister et al. 1993
		Pseudoboa nigra	Small intestine	Brazil	Silva 2014
		Thamnodynastes hypoconia	Small intestine	Brazil	Silva 2014
	Scincomorpha	*Acontias kgalagadi*		Southern Africa	Bursey and Goldberg 2007
		Scincella lateralis	Intestine	USA, Florida	Brooks 1972
		Sphenomorphus simus		Papua New Guinea	Goldberg et al. 2009

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Appendix continued.

Cystacanth	Clade	Host species	Site of infection	Location	Reference
Oligacanthorhynchid	Anguimorpha	*Mesapis monticola*	Coelom	Costa Rica	Bursey and Goldberg 2006
		Pseudopus apodus		Azerbaijan	†Farzaliev and Petrochenko 1980
	Iguania	*Anolis acutus*	Coelom	St. Croix	USNPM 086637
		Anolis auratus	Cysts in body cavity	Panama	Bursey et al. 2012
		Anolis carolinensis	Subcutaneous	Louisiana	USNPM 090331
		Anolis cristatellus	Body cavity	U.S. Virgin Islands	USNPM 087542
		Anolis humilis	Cysts in body cavity	Costa Rica	Bursey et al. 2012
		Anolis tropidogaster	Cysts in body cavity	Panama	Bursey et al. 2012
		Anolis tropidolepis	Coelom	Costa Rica	USNPM 093528
		Chamaeleo namaquensis	Body wall, attached to various organs	Southern Africa	Prudhoe and Harris 1971
		Enyalius bilineatus		Brazil	Vrcibradic et al. 2007
		Gambelia wislizenii	Coelom, encapsulated in thoracic and abdominal integument and musculature	USA, Texas	McAllister and Bursey 2007
		Norops tropidolepis	Body cavity	Costa Rica	Bursey et al. 2004
		Paralaudakia caucasia		Azerbaijan	†Farzaliev and Petrochenko 1980
		Paralaudakia caucasia		Georgia	Sharpilo 1976; Murvanidze et al. 2008
		Paralaudakia lehmanni		Kazakhstan	Andrushko and Markov 1956
		Phrynosoma ditmarsi		Mexico	Goldberg and Bursey 2000a
		Saara hardwickii		Afghanistan	†Barus and Tenora 1976
		Stellagama stellio		Egypt	USNPM 063106
		Trapelus sanguinolentus		Kazakhstan	Andrushko and Markov 1956
		Tropidurus hispidus		Brazil	Brito et al. 2014
		Tropidurus semitaeniatus		Brazil	Brito et al. 2014

Continued

Appendix continued.

Cystacanth	Clade	Host species	Site of infection	Location	Reference
		Tropidurus torquatus	Body cavity	Brazil	USNPM 089091
		Urosaurus nigricaudus	Body cavity	Mexico	Goldberg, Bursey and Beaman 2003
		Uta stansburiana	Body cavity	USA, California	USNPM 087283
	Gekkota	*Hemidactylus frenatus*		Thailand	Saehoong and Wongsawad 1997
		Hemidactylus platyurus		Thailand	Saehoong and Wongsawad 1997
		Hemidactylus turcicus	Subcutaneous	USA, Louisiana	Criscione and Font 2001
		Hemidactylus turcicus	Body cavity	Turkey	Yildirimhan et al. 2008
		Lepidoblepharis xanthostigma	Stomach	Costa Rica	Goldberg and Bursey 2004a
	Lacertoidea	*Acanthodactylus beershebensis*	Body cavity	Israel	USNPM 108056
		Ameiva ameiva		Paraguay	Ávila and Silva 2010; Smales 2007
		Ameiva bifrontata	Small intestine	Peru	Ávila and Silva 2010; Smales 2007; Goldberg and Bursey 2012b
		Ameiva festiva	Coelom	Nicaragua	Bursey et al. 2006
		Ameiva leptophrys	Body Cavity	Costa Rica	Goldberg and Bursey 2011
		Ameiva undulata		Costa Rica	Goldberg and Bursey 2009a
		Aspidoscelis tigris	Intestine	USA, Arizona	Goldberg et al. 1997c
		Cnemidophorus septemvittatus		USA, Texas	USNPM 083365
		Eremias pleskei		Azerbaijan	†Farzaliev and Petrochenko 1980
		Holcosus leptophrys	Body cavity	Costa Rica	USNPM 103863
		Holcosus undulatus	Body cavity	Costa Rica	USNPM 101074
		Lacerta strigata		Azerbaijan	†Farzaliev and Petrochenko 1980
		Lacerta strigata		Georgia	Sharpilo 1976; Murvanidze et al. 2008
	Ophidia	*Agkistrodon bilineatus*		Mexico	USNPM 102286
		Agkistrodon contortrix		USA, North Carolina	Davis et al. 2016
		Agkistrodon piscivorous		USA, Louisiana	Elkins and Nickol 1983
		Boa constrictor		Brazil	Travassos 1917

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Appendix continued.

Cystacanth	Clade	Host species	Site of infection	Location	Reference
		Bothrops jararaca		Brazil	Travassos 1917
		Bothrops neuwiedi		Brazil	Travassos 1917
		Cerastes vipera	Body cavity	Egypt	HWML 35414
		Chilomeniscus stramineus	Body cavity	Mexico	USNPM 106939
		Chironius carinatus	Coelom	Costa Rica	Goldberg and Bursey 2004b
		Chironius exoletus	Coelom	Costa Rica	Goldberg and Bursey 2004b
		Chironius fuscus	Mesenteries	Brazil	USNPM 095379
		Chironius grandisquamis	Coelom	Costa Rica	Goldberg and Bursey 2004b
		Clelia clelia		Brazil	Travassos 1917
		Coluber constrictor	Mesenteries	USA, Pennsylvania	Bolette 1998a
		Coluber mentovarius		Mexico	Goldberg and Bursey 2004c
		Coniophanes fissidens	Coelom	Costa Rica	Goldberg and Bursey 2007
		Conopsis lineata		Mexico	Goldberg and Bursey 2004d
		Crotalus atrox	Subcutaneous	USA, Arizona	USNPM 096557
		Crotalus atrox	Mesenteries	USA, Texas	Bolette 1997a
		Crotalus basiliscus	Body cavity	Mexico	USNPM 095372
		Crotalus cerastes		USA, Arizona	USNPM 091080
		Crotalus cerberus	Body cavity	USA, Arizona	USNPM 094152
		Crotalus enyo	Mesenteries	Mexico	USNPM 092196
		Crotalus lepidus		Mexico	Goldberg and Bursey 1999 (USNPM 087642)
		Crotalus lepidus		USA, Texas	McAllister et al. 2004 (USNPM 92421)
		Crotalus mitchellii		USA, California	USNPM 088617
		Crotalus scutulatus	Subcutaneous	USA, Arizona	Bolette 1997b
		Crotalus tigris		USA, Arizona	Goldberg and Bursey 1999 (USNPM 087643)
		Crotalus viridis	Subcutaneous	USA, South Dakota	Bolette 1998b
		Crotalus willardi		Mexico	Goldberg and Bursey 2000b

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Appendix continued.

Cystacanth	Clade	Host species	Site of infection	Location	Reference
		Dendrophidion pericarinatum	Coelom	Costa Rica	Goldberg and Bursey 2004b
		Dendrophidion vinitor	Coelom	Costa Rica	Goldberg and Bursey 2004b
		Diadophis punctatus	Mesenteries	USA, Arizona	Goldberg and Bursey 2004e (USNPM 092282)
		Dolichophis jugularis		Azerbaijan	†Farzaliev and Petrochenko 1980
		Drymarchon couperi	Mesenteries around small intestine	USA, Florida	Foster et al. 2000
		Drymobius margaritiferus	Coelom	Costa Rica	Goldberg and Bursey 2005 (USNPM 095055)
		Elaphe quatuorlineata		Europe	Travassos 1917
		Erythrolampus aesculapii		Brazil	Travassos 1917
		Erythrolampus bizona	Coelom	Costa Rica	Goldberg and Bursey 2004b
		Erythrolampus miliaris	Peritoneum	Brazil	Pizzatto and Marques 2006; Travassos 1917
		Hypsiglena torquata	Body cavity	USA, Arizona	USNPM 090584
		Imantodes cenchoa	Body cavity	Costa Rica	USNPM 101519
		Imantodes gemmistratus	Body cavity	Costa Rica	Goldberg and Bursey 2009b
		Imantodes inornatus	Body cavity	Costa Rica	USNPM 101522
		Lampropeltis getula	Mesenteries	USA, Louisiana	Elkins and Nickol 1983
		Leptodeira maculata		Mexico	Goldberg and Bursey 2004b
		Leptodeira septentrionalis	Coelom	Costa Rica	USNPM 101174
		Leptophis ahaetulla	Coelom	Costa Rica	Goldberg and Bursey 2004b
		Erythrolamprus epinephelus	Coelom	Costa Rica	Goldberg and Bursey 2004b
		Macrovipera lebetina		Uzbekistan	†Markov et al. 1967
		Malpolon monspessulanus	Intestines	Egypt	HWML 35417
		Mastigodryas bifossatus		Brazil	Travassos 1917
		Micruroides euryxanthus	Mesenteries	USA, Arizona	Goldberg and Bursey 2000c (USNPM 088779)
		Micrurus corrallinus			Pizzatto and Madi 2002
		Micrurus nigrocinctus	Coelom	Costa Rica	Goldberg and Bursey 2004b

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Appendix continued.

Cystacanth	Clade	Host species	Site of infection	Location	Reference
		Naja oxiana		Turkmenistan and Tajikistan	†Markov et al. 1968
		Nerodia cyclopion	Mesenteries	USA, Louisiana	Elkins and Nickol 1983
		Nerodia fasciata	Mesenteries	USA, Louisiana	Elkins and Nickol 1983
		Oxybelis aeneus		Mexico	Goldberg and Bursey 2001
		Oxybelis aeneus	Coelom	Costa Rica	Goldberg and Bursey 2004b
		Oxybelis fulgidus	Coelom	Costa Rica	Goldberg and Bursey 2004b
		Psammophis schokari	Body cavity	Egypt	HWML 35427
		Psammophis sibilans	Body cavity	Egypt	HWML 35426
		Philodryas olfersii		Brazil	Travassos 1917
		Philodryas patagoniensis	Body cavity	Paraguay	Smales 2007
		Pliocercus euryzonus	Body cavity	Costa Rica	USNPM 099526
		Pseustes poecilonotus	Coelom	Costa Rica	Goldberg and Bursey 2004b
		Ptyas mucosa		India	Rengaraju and Das 1981
		Rhinocheilus lecontei	Subcutaneous	Mexico and USA, Arizona, California, Texas	Bolette 1997b; Goldberg, Bursey and Holshuh 1998
		Salvadora grahamiae	Abdominal integument	USA, Texas	McAllister et al. 2017
		Salvadora mexicana		Mexico	Goldberg and Bursey 2004c
		Tantilla yaquia	Coelom	USA, Arizona	Goldberg and Bursey 2004f
		Thamnodynastes strigatus	Body cavity	Paraguay	Smales 2007
		Trimorphodon tau	Coelom	Mexico	Goldberg and Bursey 2004c
		Urotheca euryzona	Coelom	Costa Rica	Goldberg and Bursey 2007
		Walterinnesia aegyptia	Intestine	Egypt	HWML 35418
		Xenodon histricus		Brazil	Travassos 1917
		Xenodon merremii		Brazil	Travassos 1917
		Xenodon rabdocephalus	Coelom	Costa Rica	Goldberg and Bursey 2007
	Scincomorpha	*Brasiliscincus agilis*	Body cavity	Brazil	USNPM 089079
		Eumeces schneideri		Azerbaijan	†Farzaliev and Petrochenko 1980
		Plestiodon multivirgatus	Body cavity	USA, New Mexico	Goldberg and Bursey 2012c
		Scincella lateralis	Body cavity	USA, Arizona	USNPM 106913

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Appendix continued.

Cystacanth	Clade	Host species	Site of infection	Location	Reference
	Varanoidea	*Varanus bengalensis*		Afghanistan	†Barus and Tenora 1976
		Varanus griseus		Egypt	USNPM 063105
Centrorhynchid	Gekkota	*Eublepharis macularius*	Body cavity, small intestine	Pakistan	Goldberg, Bursey and Telford 2003
		Gonatodes albogularis	Stomach wall	Panama	Bursey et al. 2007
		Hemidactylus agrius	Body cavity	Brazil	Anjos et al. 2011
		Hemidactylus mabouia	Small intestine; stomach wall; intestinal wall, mesenteries	Brazil	Rodrigues 1970; Anjos et al. 2005
		Phyllodactylus lanei		Mexico	Mayén-Peña and Salgado-Maldonado 1998
		Tarentola gomerensis	Body cavity	Canary Islands	Roca et al. 1999
	Iguania	*Anolis auratus*	Body cavity	Panama	Bursey et al. 2012
		Anolis limifrons	Body cavity	Panama	Bursey et al. 2012
		Anolis nebulosus		Mexico	Mayén-Peña and Salgado-Maldonado 1998
		Anolis poecilopus	Body cavity	Panama	Bursey et al. 2012
		Anolis tropidogaster	Body cavity	Panama	Bursey et al. 2012
		Anolis uniformis		Mexico	Cabrera-Guzmán and Garrido-Olvera 2014
		Ctenosaura pectinata		Mexico	Mayén-Peña and Salgado-Maldonado 1998
		Enyalius bilineatus	Stomach wall	Brazil	Vrcibradic et al. 2007
		Enyalius perditus	Small intestine, stomach	Brazil	Vrcibradic et al. 2008
		Norops limifrons	Small intestine	Costa Rica	Bursey and Goldberg 2003
		Norops tropidolepis	Body cavity	Costa Rica	Bursey et al. 2004
		Phrynocephalus interscapularis		Turkmenistan	Velikanov 1989
		Sceloporus jarrovii	Coelom	Mexico	Goldberg, Bursey and Bezy 1996

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Appendix continued.

Cystacanth	Clade	Host species	Site of infection	Location	Reference
		Sceloporus nelsoni		Mexico	Mayén-Peña and Salgado-Maldonado 1998
		Stenocercus guentheri	Mesenteries	Ecuador	USNPM 103202
		Tropidurus torquatus	Stomach wall	Argentina	Vicente 1978; Ávila and Silva 2010; Lamas and Zaracho 2006
	Lacertoidea	*Apathya cappadocica*	Stomach wall	Turkey	Birlik et al. 2015
		Darevskia rudis	Small intestine	Turkey	Birlik et al. 2018
		Gallotia caesaris	Body cavity	Canary Islands	Roca et al. 2012
		Gymnophthalmus speciosus	Stomach wall	Panama	Bursey et al. 2007
		Lacerta agilis	Intestinal wall	Laboratory	Krasnoshchekov and Lisitsyna 2009
		Lacerta agilis		Ukraine	Sharpilo et al. 2001
		Lacerta strigata		Georgia	Sharpilo 1976; Murvanidze et al. 2008
		Leposoma rugiceps	Stomach wall	Panama	Bursey et al. 2007
		Podarcis lilfordi	Body cavity	Spain, Balearic Islands	Roca 1995
		Podarcis milensis	Body cavity	Greece, Milos Island	Roca 1995
		Podarcis pityusensis	Body cavity	Spain, Balearic Islands	Roca 1995
		Takydromus tachydromoides		Japan	Telford 1997
		Tupinambis teguixin	Body cavity	Paraguay	Smales 2007
	Ophidia	*Agkistrodon piscivorous*		USA, North Carolina	Collins 1968, 1969
		Amphiesma stolatum	Small intestine	Taiwan	†Schmidt and Kuntz 1969
		Coluber constrictor	Coelom	USA, Oklahoma	McAllister et al. 2015
		Coniophanes fissidens	Coelom	Costa Rica	Goldberg and Bursey 2007
		Drymarchon couperi	Mesenteries around small intestine	USA, Florida	Foster et al. 2000
		Deinagkistrodon acutus	Small intestine	Taiwan	†Schmidt and Kuntz 1969
		Echinanthera undulata	Body cavity	Brazil	Smales 2007

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Appendix continued.

Cystacanth	Clade	Host species	Site of infection	Location	Reference
		Echis carinatus		Turkmenistan	Markov et al. 1970
		Elaphe sp.		China	USNPM 052195
		Elaphe carinata		China	USNPM 052197, 052198
		Erythrolamprus viridis		Brazil	Quirino et al. 2018
		Helicops leopardinus	Body cavity	Paraguay	Smales 2007
		Leptophis ahaetulla	Body cavity	Paraguay	Smales 2007
		Liophis lineatus	Body cavity	Paraguay	Smales 2007
		Liophis poecilogyrus	Body cavity	Paraguay	Smales 2007
		Lycodon sp.		India	†Das 1950
		Lycodon semicarinatus		China	USNPM 052221
		Lycodon subcinctus	Small intestine	Taiwan	†Schmidt and Kuntz 1969
		Malpolon monspessulanus	Body cavity	Egypt	HWML 35428
		Naja hannah		USA, Washington, DC (Zoo)	USNPM 056852
		Naja naja		India	†Das 1950
		Naja naja		Pakistan	Heckmann et al. 2011
		Nerodia erythrogaster		USA, North Carolina	Collins 1968, 1969
		Nerodia sipedon	Intestinal wall	USA, Kentucky	Ward 1940
		Nerodia sipedon		USA, North Carolina	Collins 1968, 1969; Richardson and Nickol 1995
		Nerodia taxispilota		USA, North Carolina	Collins 1968, 1969
		Philodryas patagoniensis	Body cavity	Paraguay	Smales 2007
		Platyceps najadum		Georgia	Sharpilo 1962; Murvanidze et al. 2008
		Protobothrops mucrosquamatus	Small intestine	Taiwan	†Schmidt and Kuntz 1969
		Psammodynastes pulverulentus	Small intestine	Taiwan	†Schmidt and Kuntz 1969
		Ptyas mucosa		India	†Das 1950
		Rhabdophis tigrinus		China	USNPM 052199, 052200, 052206
		Rhadinaea calligaster	Coelom	Costa Rica	Goldberg and Bursey 2007
		Rhinocheilus lecontei		USA, Arizona	Goldberg, Bursey and Holshuh 1998 (USNPM 086194)

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Appendix continued.

Cystacanth	Clade	Host species	Site of infection	Location	Reference
		Sinonatrix annularis	Small intestine	Taiwan	†Schmidt and Kuntz 1969
		Trimeresurus stejnegeri	Small intestine	Taiwan	†Schmidt and Kuntz 1969
	Scincomorpha	*Brasiliscincus agilis*	Stomach, intestine, lungs, liver	Brazil	Vrcibradic et al. 2002
		Emoia caeruleocauda	Body cavity	Northern Mariana Islands, Agrihan Island	USNPM 103499
		Mochlus sundevalli	Stomach wall	Kenya	USNPM 104678
		Notomabuya frenata	Stomach wall	Brazil	Anjos et al. 2005
		Plestiodon latiscutatus	Body cavity	Japan	Bursey et al. 2005
		Psychosaura macrorhyncha	Stomach, intestine, lungs, liver	Brazil	Vrcibradic et al. 2002; Vrcibradic and Rocha 2005

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