

NOTES ET INFORMATIONS

FIRST REPORT OF AFLAGELLATE SPERMATOOZON IN A PARASITIC PLATYHELMINTHE, FOUND IN THE MONOGENEAN *DIPLOZOON GRACILE* (POLYOPISTHOCOTYLEA, DIPLOZOIDAE)

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SUMMARY. The spermatozoon of *Diplozoon gracile*, studied by electron microscopy, does not show any flagellum, but contains numerous longitudinal singlet microtubules. This is the first reported case of an aflagellate spermatozoon in the Monogenea and even in the parasitic Platyhelminthes in general.

Première observation d'un spermatozoïde aflagellé chez un Plathelminthe parasite, trouvé chez le Monogène *Diplozoon gracile* (Polyopisthocotylea, Diplozoidae).

RÉSUMÉ. Le spermatozoïde de *Diplozoon gracile*, étudié au microscope électronique, ne montre pas de flagelle, mais contient de nombreux microtubules longitudinaux. Ceci constitue le premier cas décrit de spermatozoïde aflagellé chez les Monogènes et même chez les Plathelminthes parasites en général.

We studied by electron microscopy the spermatozoon of the monogenean *Diplozoon gracile* Reichenbach-Klinke, 1961 parasite of the gills of the fish *Gobio gobio*, caught in a river near Montpellier (France).

The spermatozoon is filiform and does not seem to contain any axonemes. In the nuclear region as in the regions devoid of nucleus, transverse sections of the sperm body show numerous (up to 450) longitudinal singlet microtubules and some membranes.

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All previously described spermatozoa of polyopisthocotylean monogeneans (more than twenty species) are biflagellate (Justine *et al.*, in press), as are the sperm cells of the trematodes (Justine and Mattei, 1982a) excepting the schistosomes with aberrant uniflagellate spermatozoa (Kitajima *et al.*, 1976). In the monopisthocotylean monogeneans (Justine and Mattei, 1982 ; Justine *et al.*, in press) and in the cestodes (Euzet *et al.*, 1981), both uniflagellate and biflagellate spermatozoa are found.

Therefore, as far as we know, the spermatozoon of *Diplozoon gracile* is the first reported case of an aflagellate sperm cell in the Monogenea and even in the parasitic Platyhelminthes (Cestoda, Trematoda, Monogenea) in general. However, aflagellate spermatozoa exist in some free-living Platyhelminthes (Hendelberg, 1977).

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