

HHS Public Access

Author manuscript *Syst Parasitol.* Author manuscript; available in PMC 2019 March 01.

Published in final edited form as:

Syst Parasitol. 2018 March ; 95(2-3): 271–279. doi:10.1007/s11230-018-9782-4.

Three new coccidians (*Cyclospora*, *Eimeria*) from eastern moles, *Scalopus aquaticus* (Mammalia: Soricomorpha: Talpidae) from Arkansas, USA

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Abstract

Three new species of coccidians (Apicomplexa: Eimeriidae) are described from eastern moles, Scalopus aquaticus (Linnaeus) from Arkansas. O cysts of Cyclospora duszynskii n. sp. are subspheroidal with a smooth bi-layered wall, measure $11.4 \times 10.0 \,\mu\text{m}$, and have a length/width (L/W) ratio of 1.1; both micropyle and oöcyst residuum are absent, but a single polar granule is present. Sporocysts are ellipsoidal and measure $7.2 \times 5.4 \,\mu\text{m}$, L/W 1.3; an indistinct Stieda body is present, but the sub-Stieda and para-Stieda bodies are absent and the sporocyst residuum is composed of medium to large granules of different sizes along the edge of the sporocyst. O cysts of Cyclospora yatesi n. sp. are subspheroidal to ovoidal with an ornate outer wall, measure $17.0 \times$ 15.2 µm, L/W 1.1; both micropyle and oöcyst residuum are absent, but a single polar granule is present. Sporocysts are ellipsoidal and measure $9.7 \times 7.3 \,\mu$ m, L/W 1.3; an indistinct Stieda body is present, but sub-Stieda and para-Stieda bodies are absent and the sporocyst residuum is composed of medium to large granules of different sizes along the edge of the sporocyst. O cysts of Eimeria *paulettefordae* n. sp. are ovoidal to ellipsoidal with an ornate outer wall, measure $30.0 \times 25.4 \,\mu\text{m}$, L/W 1.2; both micropyle and oöcyst residuum are absent, but a single polar granule is present. Sporocysts are ellipsoidal and measure $12.6 \times 9.2 \mu m$, L/W 1.4; a button-like Stieda body is present, but sub-Stieda and para-Stieda bodies absent and the sporocyst residuum is composed of medium to large granules of different sizes along the edge of the sporocyst. These are the first coccidians described from Arkansas populations of S. aquaticus. In addition, a summary is provided on the cyclosporans and eimerians from North American talpids.

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Compliance with ethical standards

Ethical approval All applicable institutional, national and international guidelines for the care and use of animals were followed.

Introduction

The eastern mole, *Scalopus aquaticus* (L.) is a robust insectivore that ranges from the northeastern United States west to the Midwest as far as southeastern Wyoming and south through Texas to northern Tamaulipas, México; it is also found in eastern Canada (Yates & Schmidly, 1978; Schmidly, 1994; Reid, 2006). In Arkansas, *S. aquaticus* is found statewide where it inhabits burrows in suitable soils (Sealander & Heidt 1988).

Much is known about the natural history and ecology of *S. aquaticus* (Yates & Schmidly, 1978). There are six species of coccidians reported from this host, one *Cyclospora* Schneider, 1881, four *Eimeria* Schneider, 1875, and a single *Isospora* Schneider, 1881 (Duszynski & Upton, 2000). To date, however, nothing has been published on coccidia from *S. aquaticus* from Arkansas, USA. The present study provides descriptions of three new coccidians infecting *S. aquaticus* in the state.

Materials and methods

Between April 2013 and January 2017, seven adult S. aquaticus were collected from burrows using Victor[®] mole traps from Benton (n = 3) and Union (n = 3) counties, Arkansas, USA, and Latimer County (n = 1), Oklahoma. USA. Fresh fecal samples and rectal contents were placed in individual vials containing 2.5% (w/v) aqueous potassium dichromate (K₂Cr₂O₇). Samples were examined for coccidia using an Olympus BX53 light microscope after flotation in Sheather's sugar solution (specific gravity = 1.30). Measurements were taken on sporulated o cysts from all infected hosts using Olympus© cellSens 1.14 digital software and reported in micrometers (µm) with the ranges followed by the means in parentheses; photographs were taken using Nomarski interference-contrast optics. O cysts were between c. 215-1,125 days old when measured and photographed. A voucher (alcoholic specimen) of S. aquaticus was accessioned into the Henderson State University (HSU) Mammal Collection, Arkadelphia, Arkansas, USA as HSU 706. Photosyntypes of sporulated oöcysts were accessioned into the Harold W. Manter Laboratory of Parasitology (HWML), Lincoln, Nebraska, USA. We follow Wilson and Reeder (2005) in the use of the ordinal name Soricomorpha Gregory for moles in North America.

Results

Three of seven (43%) *S. aquaticus* were found to be passing coccidian oöcysts of two cyclosporans and an eimerian. They are described here as new (Fig. 1–3 and Fig. 4–11)

Cyclospora duszynskii n. sp

Type-host: Eastern mole, *Scalopus aquaticus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Mammalia, Soricomorpha, Talpidae), adult (not measured) collected 26.x.2016).

Type-locality: Bentonville, Benton County, Arkansas, USA (36° 21′ 58.2186″W, 94° 14′ 38.634″W).

Type-material: Photosyntypes of sporulated oocysts are deposited as HWML 139341.

Other hosts and localities: Two adult *S. aquaticus* (118 and 157 mm total length [TL]) collected on $7-8 \times 2013$ from El Dorado, Union County, Arkansas, USA (33° 13′ 0.5298″N, 92° 35′ 9.7548″W).

Prevalence: In 3 of 7 (43%) overall; in 1 of 3 (33%) Benton County, Arkansas, USA; in 2 of 3 (50%) Union County, Arkansas, USA.

Sporulation time: Unknown; oöcysts were sporulated when examined.

Site of infection: Unknown; oöcysts recovered from faeces.

ZooBank registration: To comply with the regulations set out in article 8.5 of the amended 2012 version of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 2012), details of the new species have been submitted to ZooBank. The Life Science Identifier (LSID) for *Cyclospora duszynskii* n. sp. is urn:lsid:- zoobank.org:pub:BEA07E8A-93C6-4730-819D-CB1306BC9DF6.

Etymology: The specific epithet is given in honor of Dr. Donald W. Duszynski (Emeritus Professor of Biology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA), Dean of American coccidiologists, for his many works on the coccidia of vertebrates, including moles.

Description

Sporulated o cyst: O cyst (n = 90) subspheroidal; $10-12 \times 9-11$ (11.4 × 10), length/width (L/W) ratio 1.0–1.2 (1.1). Wall smooth, thin, bilayered, *c*.0.7, inner layer *c*.0.2, light brown outer layer *c*.0.5. Micropyle and oöcyst residuum absent, single polar granule present.

Sporocyst: Sporocyst (n = 175) two, ellipsoidal 6–10 × 4–7 (7.2 × 5.4); L/W ratio 1.0–1.6 (1.3); wall smooth, thin and uni-layered, light brown, *c*.0.2 thick. Indistinct Stieda body present, sub-Stieda and para-Stieda bodies absent; sporocyst residuum medium to large granules of different sizes along edge of sporocyst.

Sporozoites: Sporozoites (two, not measured), banana-shaped; with a spheroidal anterior and posterior refractile bodies, nucleus difficult to discern.

Remarks—We limit the comparison of our new taxon only to those cyclosporan species from North American moles of the family Talpidae Fischer (Table 1, also see Duszynski & Upton, 2000). None of the five *Cyclospora* spp. from moles possess oöcysts as minute as the new species. There is a single previously described species from *S. aquaticus* (hosts from Texas, USA), *Cyclospora megacephali* Ford & Duszynski, 1988 which is similar but the subspheroidal oöcysts are larger and measure 18.9×15.7 (L/W ratio = 1.2), the sporocysts are larger, 15.0×7.2 (L/W of 2.1), and there is a large cap-like SB; oöcysts of *Cyclospora ashtabulensis* Ford & Duszynski, 1989 from hairy-tailed mole, *Parascalops breweri* (Bachman) from Ohio, USA, are also larger and measure 18.0×14.3 and also do not possess a PG which is present in the new species; *Cyclospora parascalopi* Ford & Duszynski, 1989 from *P. breweri* from Massachusetts and Ohio has larger oocysts measuring 16.5×13.6 (L/W = 1.2), without a PG; both of these latter species from *P. breweri* also have a prominent cap-like SB which is not present in the new species (Ford & Duszynski, 1988, 1989). There are also two species of *Cyclospora* from European moles, *Talpa europaea* Linnaeus, namely, *Cyclospora caryolytica* Schaudinn, 1902 from Bulgaria, Germany, and Italy, and *Cyclospora talpae* Pellérdy & Tanyi, 1968 from Austria, Bulgaria, England, and Hungary (see Duszynski & Upton, 2000). However, neither of these taxa is similar to the new species and, more importantly, they are also widely separated geographically from hosts in the Western Hemisphere.

Based on the differences in morphological and morphometric characteristics noted above, *C. duszynskii* is considered a species new to science. Moreover, to date, it is the smallest cyclosporan reported from moles as well as the first species from a mole in Arkansas and the second species known from *S. aquaticus*.

Cyclospora yatesi n. sp

Type-host: Eastern mole, *Scalopus aquaticus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Mammalia, Soricomorpha, Talpidae), adult collected 8.x.2013).

Type-locality: El Dorado, Union County, Arkansas, USA (33° 13′ 0.5298″N, 92° 35′ 9.7548″W).

Type-material: Photosyntypes of sporulated oocysts are deposited as HWML 139342.

Prevalence: In 3 of 7 (43%) overall; in 2 of 3 (67%) Union County, Arkansas, USA.

Sporulation time: Unknown; oöcysts were sporulated when examined.

Site of infection: Unknown; oöcysts recovered from faeces.

ZooBank registration: To comply with the regulations set out in article 8.5 of the amended 2012 version of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 2012), details of the new species have been submitted to ZooBank. The Life Science Identifier (LSID) for *Cyclospora yatesi* n. sp. is urn:lsid: - zoobank.org:pub:29DEFBA7-4ECA-4402-9E23-A2CAAF53E38A.

Etymology: The specific epithet is given in honor of the late Dr. Terry L. Yates (1950–2007) (University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA), renowned mammalogist and mole expert who is credited with discovering the source of the hantavirus in the American Southwest in 1993.

Description

<u>Sporulated o cyst</u>: O cyst (n = 53) subspheroidal to ovoidal; $12-18 \times 10-17$ (17.0×15.2), length/width (L/W) ratio 1.0–1.2 (1.1). Wall ornate, bilayered, *c*.1.3, thick, inner layer *c*.0.7, yellowish-brown outer layer *c*.0.6. Micropyle and oöcyst residuum absent, single polar granule present.

Sporocyst: Sporocyst (n = 106) two, ellipsoidal 6–12 × 5–10 (9.7 × 7.3); L/W ratio 0.7–1.9 (1.3); wall smooth, uni-layered, colourless, c.0.2 thick. Indistinct Stieda body present, sub-

Stieda and para-Stieda bodies absent; sporocyst residuum medium to large granules of different sizes along edge of sporocyst.

Sporozoites: Sporozoites (two, not measured), banana-shaped; with a spheroidal anterior and posterior refractile bodies, nucleus difficult to discern.

Remarks—As noted above, we limit our comparison of our new taxon only to those cyclosporan species from North American moles of the family Talpidae (Table 1). The new taxon possesses oöcysts with sculptured outer walls that are similar in size and wall morphology to two previously described cyclosporans from *P. breweri. Cyclospora ashtabulensis* and *C. parascalopi* both have sculptured outer walls on their oöcysts but they also have very different sporocysts with crescent-shaped caps or thick cap-like coverings on their SBs that the new species doesn't possess. The only cyclosporan from *S. aquaticus, C. megacephali* has a smooth outer wall.

Based on the differences in morphological and morphometric characteristics noted above, *C. yatesi* is considered a species new to science. It also represents the third cyclosporan from *S. aquaticus* as well as another species from an Arkansas mole.

Eimeria paulettefordae n. sp

Type-host: Eastern mole, *Scalopus aquaticus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Mammalia, Soricomorpha, Talpidae), adult collected 8.x.2013).

Type-locality: El Dorado, Union County, Arkansas, USA (33° 13′ 0.5298″N, 92° 35′ 9.7548″W).

Type-material: Photosyntypes of sporulated oocysts are deposited as HWML 139343.

Prevalence: In 1 of 7 (14%) overall; in 1 of 3 (33%) Union County, Arkansas, USA.

Sporulation time: Unknown; oöcysts were sporulated when examined.

Site of infection: Unknown; oöcysts recovered from faeces.

ZooBank registration: To comply with the regulations set out in article 8.5 of the amended 2012 version of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 2012), details of the new species have been submitted to ZooBank. The Life Science Identifier (LSID) for *Eimeria paulettefordae* n. sp. is urn:lsid: - zoobank.org:pub:B7D97D61-66EB-47FC-A128-6982816EEB05.

Etymology: The specific epithet is given in honor of Dr. Paulette L. Ford (Rocky Mountain Station, U.S. Forest Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA), who described (with D.W. Duszynski) several species of coccidians in moles of the world.

Description

Sporulated o cyst: O cyst (n = 6) ovoidal to ellipsoidal; $28-32 \times 24-27$ (30.0×25.4), length/width (L/W) ratio 1.1–1.3 (1.2). Wall ornate, bilayered, *c*.1.7, thick, dark inner layer

c.0.9, yellowish-brown outer layer *c*.0.8. Micropyle and oöcyst residuum absent, single polar granule present.

Sporocyst: Sporocyst (n = 21) two, ellipsoidal $9-17 \times 8-11$ (12.6×9.2); L/W ratio 1.1–1.6 (1.4); wall smooth, uni-layered, colourless, c.0.2 thick. Button-like Stieda body present, sub-Stieda and para-Stieda bodies absent; sporocyst residuum medium to large granules of different sizes along edge of sporocyst.

Sporozoites: Sporozoites (two, not measured) two, banana-shaped; with a spheroidal anterior and posterior refractile bodies, nucleus difficult to discern.

Remarks—We limit comparison of our new taxon only to those eimerian species from North American moles of the family Talpidae (Table 1). Of the three eimerians previously known from S. aquaticus, namely E. aquatici Ford & Duszynski, 1988, E. motleiensis Ford & Duszynski, 1988 and E. scalopi Ford & Duszynski 1988, none possess oöcysts that are as large $(17.0 \times 10.6, 17.0 \times 15.3, \text{ and } 13.6 \times 12.6, \text{ respectively})$ as the new species $(30.0 \times 10.6, 17.0 \times 10.6, 17.0 \times 15.3, \text{ and } 13.6 \times 12.6, \text{ respectively})$ as the new species $(30.0 \times 10.6,$ 25.4). In addition, other eimerians from North American moles, including E. condylurae Duszynski, 1989 from star-nosed mole, Condylura cristata (Linnaeus) from Ohio and Vermont, E. parastiedica Duszynski, 1985 from American shrew mole, Neurotrichus gibbsii (Baird) from Washington, E. aethiospora Ford & Duszynski, 1989 and E. titthus Ford & Duszynski, 1989 from P. breweri from Ohio, and E. scapani Henry, 1932 from broad-footed mole, Scapanus latimanus (Bachman) from California, all have oöcysts that are also considerably smaller (Table 1; Duszynski & Upton, 2000). Only two species possess oöcysts from North American talpids, E. heterocapita Duszynski, 1985 and E. parastiedica from N. gibbsii, that are similar (but still smaller) in size to the new species (25.5×21.4 and 27.4×21.4 25.5). However, oöcysts of *E. heterocapita* possesses an amicropylar cap at one end and *E.* parastiedica has a prominent SB, SSB, and PSB as distinctive features of the sporocyst (Duszynski & Upton, 2000), which the new species doesn't possess.

Based on the differences in morphological and morphometric characteristics noted above, *E. paulettefordae* is considered a species new to science. It also represents the fourth eimerian from *S. aquaticus* and, to date, the largest coccidian known from any North American mole.

Discussion

Duszynski & Upton (2000) summarized the coccidians from soricomorphs of the world. Wilson and Reeder (2005) recognized seven species of moles (Talpidae) within five genera in North America. Although five species have been reported to harbor coccidia (see Duszynski & Upton, 2000), the coast mole, *Scapanus orarius* (True) which ranges from northern California through Oregon and Washington to Central Idaho, and Townsend's mole, *Scapanus townsendii* (Bachman) which occupies a limited range along the west coast of Washington, Oregon and into Northern California (Reid, 2006) still remain to be surveyed. Future surveys will likely increase our knowledge of mole coccidians by reporting new host and geographic distributional records, as well as including the possibility of discovering additional species new to science.

Acknowledgments

We thank Drs. Renn Tumlison (HSU) and Scott L. Gardner and Gabor R. Racz (HWML) for expert curatorial assistance, and R. Scott Seville (Univ. Wyoming) for a pre-review of the ms. Scientific Collecting Permits were provided to CTM by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (permit number 031120151). Matthew B. Connior (NW Arkansas Community College, Bentonville, Arkansas) provided some of the samples used in this study.

Funding This study was supported, in part, by a grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (2P20GM103432), National Institutes of Health (NIH) to R.S. Seville. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH.

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Schematic line drawings of new coccidians from *Scalopus aquaticus*. **1.** *Cyclospora duszynskii* n. sp. **2.** *Cyclospora yatesi* n. sp. Bar: 5 μm. **3.** *Eimeria paulettefordae* n. sp. Bars: 5 μm.



Figs. 4-11.

Nomarski-interference contrast microscopy of sporulated oöcysts of new coccidians from *Scalopus aquaticus*. **4–6.** *Cyclospora duszynskii*. **7–9.** *Cyclospora yatesi* n. sp. **10–11.** *Eimeria paulettefordae* n. sp. (OW) oocyst wall; (PG) polar granule; (SR) sporocyst residuum; (SB) Stieda body; (SP) sporocyst. Bars: 5 µm.

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Table 1

rican moles (Talpidae).	$^{* \dagger}$ Sporocyst shape, size, f	Ovoidal 11.6 × 7.2; L/W 1.6 8–14 × 5–9
a spp. from North Ame	Oöcyst shape, size, features	Subpheroidal to ellipsoidal 18.0 × 14.3; L/W 1.3 14-23 × 11-19
ulated oöcysts of <i>Cyclospora</i> and <i>Eimeri</i>	Type host (current name) Type locality (others)	<i>Parascalops breweri</i> (Bachman) Ohio, USA
Comparison of the sport	Cyclospora or. Eimeria spp.	C. ashtabulensis

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ze, features ^{*7} References	Ford & Duszynski (1989)	This report	Ford & Duszynski (1988)	Ford & Duszynski (1989)	This report	Ford & Duszynski (1989)	Ford & Duszynski (1988)	Duszynski (1989)	
Sporocyst shape, siz	Ovoidal 11.6 × 7.2; L/W 1.6 8–14 × 5–9 SB, SR: both + SSB, PSB: both –	Ellipsoidal 7.2×5.4; L/W 1.3 6-10×4-7 SB, SR: both + SSB, PSB: -	Ellipsoidal 15.0 \times 7.2; L/W 2.1 11–17 \times 6–9 SB, SR: both + SSB, PSB: both –	Ovoidal 11.1 × 6.9; L/W 1.6 8-14 × 5-8 SB, SR: both + SSB, PSB: both -	Ellipsoidal 9.7×7.3 ; L/W 1.3 $6-12 \times 5-10$ SB, SR: both + SSB, PSB: both -	Spindle-shaped 10.6×5.7 ; L/W 1.9 $8-13 \times 4-7$ SB, SSB, SR: all + PSB: -	Elongate-ovoidal 9.0 × 5.2; L/W 1.8 SB, SSB, SR: all – PSB: –	Elongate-ellipsoidal 11.7 \times 5.6; L/W 2.1 11.14 \times 5-6 SB, SSB, SR: all + PSB: - PSB: -	
Oöcyst shape, size, features $^{* \dagger}$	Subpheroidal to ellipsoidal 18.0 × 14.3; LW 1.3 14-23 × 11-19 M, OR, PG: all –	Subpheroidal 11.0 × 9.7; L/W 1.1 10–12 × 9–11 M, OR: both – PG: +	Subspheroidal 18.9 × 15.7; L/W 1.2 14-21 × 12-18 M, OR: both – PG: +	Ellipsoidal 16.5 × 13.6; L/W 1.2 13-20 × 11-20 M, OR, PG: all –	Subspheroidal to ovoidal 17.0 × 15.2; L/W 1.1 12–18 × 10–17 M, OR: both – PG: +	Subspheroidal to Ellipsoidal 19.3 × 13.0; L/W 1.5 15-24 × 10-16 M, OR: both – PG: +	Ellipsoidal 17.0 × 10.6; L/W 1.6 14-20 × 9-14 M, OR: both – PG: +	Subspheroidal 17.7 × 15.7; L/W 1.1 17–23 × 14–21 M: – OR, PG: +	
Type host (current name) Type locality (others)	<i>Parascalops breweri</i> (Bachman) Ohio, USA	<i>Scalopus aquaticus</i> (Linnaeus) Arkansas, USA	<i>S. aquaticus</i> Texas, USA	<i>P. breweri</i> Ohio, USA (Massachusetts, USA)	<i>S. aquaticus</i> Arkansas, USA	<i>P. breweri</i> Ohio, USA (Massachusetts, USA)	<i>S. aquaticus</i> Texas, USA	<i>Condylura cristata</i> (Linnaeus) Vermont, USA (Ohio, USA)	
Cyclospora or. Eimeria spp.	C. ashtabulensis	C. duszynskii	C. megacephali	C. parascalopi	C. yatesi	E. æethiospora	E. aquatici	E. condylurae	

Cyclospora or. Eimeria spp.	Type host (current name) Type locality (others)	Oöcyst shape, size, features $^{*\dot{ au}}$	Sporocyst shape, size, features ${}^{*\dot{ au}}$	References
			SR:+	
E. motleiensis	<i>S. aquaticus</i> Texas, USA	Subspheroidal 17.0 × 15.3; L/W 1.1 15-19 × 13-19 M. PG: both – OR: +	Ovoidal 10.7 × 6.8; L/W 1.6 10–13 × 6–8 SB, SSB, SR: all + PSB: –	Ford & Duszynski (1988)
E. neurotrichi	<i>N. gibbsi</i> Oregon, USA (Washington, USA)	Ovoidal 17.6 × 13.6; L/W 1.3 16-20 × 11–16 M, OR: both – PG: +	Ovoidal 10.7 × 5.5; L/W 2.0 9-12 × 5-6 SB, SR: both + SSB, PSB: both -	Duszynski (1985)
E. parastiedica	<i>N. gibbsi</i> Washington, USA	Spheroidal to Subspheroidal 27.4 × 25.5; L/W 1.1 25-30 × 22-28 M, OR, PG: all –	Ovoidal to football-shaped 18.3 × 10.4; L/W 1.8 16-20 × 9-11 SB, SSB, PSB, SR: all +	Duszynski (1985)
E. paulettefordae	<i>S. aquaticus</i> Arkansas, USA	Ovoidal to ellipsoidal 30.0×25.4; L/W 1.2 28-32×24-27 M, OR: both – PG: +	Ellipsoidal 12.6 × 9.2; L/W 1.4 9–17 × 8–11 SB, SR: both + SSB, PSB: both –	This report
E. scalopi	<i>S. aquaticus</i> Texas, USA	Spheroidal to subspheroidal 13.6 × 12.6; L/W 1.1 11–17 × 11–15 M, PG: both – OR: +	Lemon-shaped 8.7×5.5 , L/W 1.6 $7-10 \times 4-7$ SB, SR: both + SSB, PSB: both -	Ford & Duszynski (1988)
E. scapani	<i>Scapanus latimanus</i> (Bachman) California, USA	Subspheroidal 19.2 × 16.0; L/W 1.2 16-22 × 14-16 M, OR: both – PG: + (small granules	Ovoidal L × W (not given) [‡] L/W ratio (not given) [‡] SB, SR: both + SSB, PSB: both -	Henry (1932); Duszynski & Upton (2000)
E. tithus	<i>P. breweri</i> Ohio, USA (Massachusetts, USA)	Subspheroidal 15.8 × 13.5; L/W 1.2 13–19 × 11–17 M, PG: both – OR: +	Ellipsoidal 11.2 × 5.8; L/W 1.9 9–13 × 4–7 SB, SSB, SR: all + PSB: –	Ford & Duszynski (1989)
* Measurements in µm.				

Syst Parasitol. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2019 March 01.

Descriptions of occysts and sporocysts follow guidelines of Wilber et al. (1998) as follows: occyst length (L) and width (W), their ranges and ratios (L/W), micropyle (M), occyst residuum (OR), polar granule(s) (PG), sporocyst (SP) length (L) and width (W), their ratio (L/W), Stieda body (SB), sub-stieda body (SSB), para-Stieda body (PSB), and sporocyst residuum (SR).

 ${\not \star}^{0}$ Oöcysts were inadequately described by Henry (1932); see Duszynski & Upton (2000).

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