

On New Sp nov *Adelobothrium lankaii* (shiplely 1900) (Eucestoda: lecanicephalidea) *Pastinaches Sephen* (Fabricus) in the Marine Waters of Sindhudurg, Coast India

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Abstract: *The present study deals with the morphological observation of the cestode parasite Adelobothrium lankaii infecting Pastinachus sephen (Fabricus) collected from the coastal region of Sindhudurg coast of Maharashtra, India. Marine fish specimens were examined for the collection of cestode parasites and the collected specimens were processed using standard parasitological techniques for morphological study. Morphological characteristics of the cestode, including scolex, proglottids, and reproductive organs, were examined and compared with existing description to confirm species identification. The study support to the understanding of the parasitic fauna of marine elasmobranchs in Indian seas and provides background information for the future ecological study of the family Lecanicephalidea. The scolex is large in size, globular in shape. The posterior region of scolex bearing four suckers. The neck is medium in length. The testes are medium in size, round in shape, 139 (130-139) in number. The cirrus pouch is medium in size, oval in shape. The ovary is small in size, distinctly bilobed. The vagina is wide tube, posterior to the cirrus pouch. The vitellaria are granular. The study provides valuable information on the morphology of the genus and contribute to the understanding of cestode diversity in marine fishes from the Sindhudurg coastal region*

Keywords: *Adelobothrium lankaii*, marine fish, Sindhudurg coast

