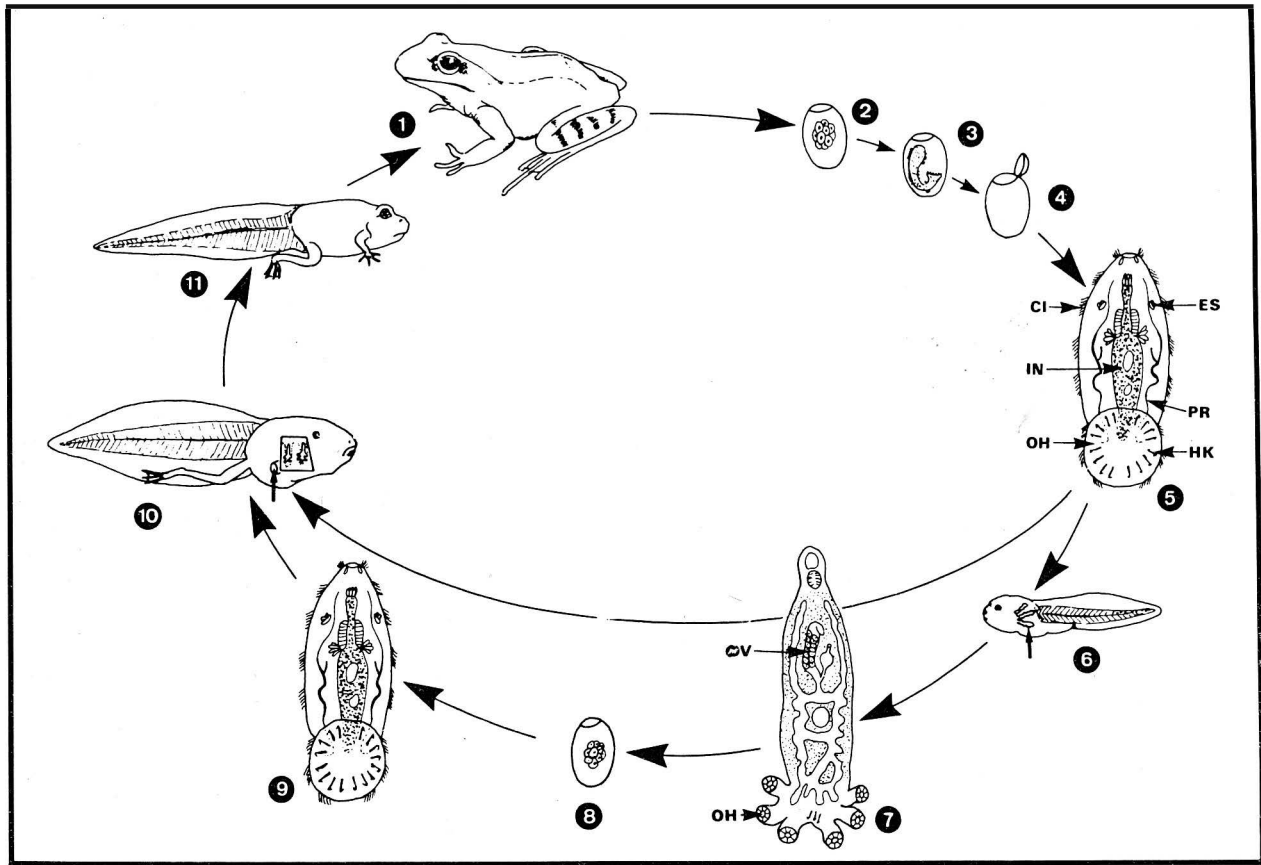


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SHORT NOTE:

THE PARASITIC BURDEN OF THE FROG *RANA RIDIBUNDA* PALLAS, FROM SAUDIA ARABIA. A PRELIMINARY LIST OF PARASITIC HELMINTHS

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Few investigators have studied the helminth parasitic fauna of *Rana ridibunda* in Saudia Arabia (Nasher, 1979, Ramadan Banaja and Saoud, 1980 and Ali, Kalanthan and Rahman, 1981).

The author's intention is to give a preliminary list (Table 1) of Platyhelminths, Nematodes and Acanthocephala collected from frogs in Saudi Arabia, over a period of four years from 1980-1984. Collections were made in the periods January-February and October-November of these years.

Frogs were collected from two localities in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia. Collecting stations were in Al-Katif Oasis 26°33'30"N, 49°59'00"E and in primary and secondary irrigation drainage canals in the vicinity of Ain Barbara, about 2km east of the city of Al-Hofuf, Al-Ahsa (Hasa) Oasis, Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia.

To the best of my knowledge all species listed here, unless indicated otherwise, are recordings made for the first time in the Saudi Arabian frog *Rana ridibunda*.

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Host	Location	Taxonomic Grade of Parasite	Parasite	Location of Parasite	Comment
<i>Rana ridibunda</i> Pallas	Al-Katif	Phylum Platyhelminthes Class Cestoda	<i>Diphyllbothrium erinaceieuropaei</i> Rudolphi 1819; Pleuroceroid larvae.	Encysted in Stomach wall of host.	Found in specimens of host collected in October-November. Large translucent sacs attached to stomach serosa. Short larvae. Average in a single host 1-2. Active in frog ringer.
				Wedged in between bundles of thigh, shank and arm muscles.	Found in specimens collected in January-February. Long pleuroceroids seen moving when muscle blocks were separated.
	Al-Katif	Phylum Nematoda	<i>Aplectana</i> Sps male and female immature stage described incident in <i>Bufo orientalis</i> and <i>Hyla arborea</i> in Asir, S. W. Saudi Arabia. Nasher A. K. (1979)	Rectum	Small nematode. Usual incidence one or two worms to a host. Heavy infestations of 8-10 to a host occurred rarely, and a frog with 30 parasites was also encountered.
	Al-Katif and Al-Hasa Oasis	Phylum Nematoda	<i>Abbreviata</i> sps larvae	Larvae in brown cysts located sub-cutaneously on body wall. Packets of cysts on either side of the urostyle and in the axilla of limbs. Heavy infestations also occurred in the superficial stomach wall and embedded deeply in its muscle. Cysts were found attached to gut musculature and mesenteries along the length of the entire G.I. Tract.	The larvae were microscopic and were released with difficulty by microdissection. When present they were numerous and therefore counting was difficult. In the urostylar region the host reaction to presence of parasite produced heavy melanin pigmentation around the larval cysts.
	Al-Katif and Al-Hasa Oasis	Phylum Nematoda	<i>Foleyella duboisi</i> Geddoelst 1916	In the body cavity on either side of the vertebral column.	Large Nematodes with translucent body wall. occurrence 2 to 4 worms usually. Occasionally heavy infestations of 13 worms were encountered in a single host. Worms were fragile. Due to host reaction to the presence of worms, mesenteries covered and wrapped up the worms.

Host	Location	Taxonomic Grade of Parasite	Parasite	Location of Parasite	Comment
<i>Rana ridibunda</i> Pallas	Al-Hasa Oasis	Phylum Nematoda	<i>Oswaldocruzia</i> sps (Female) Described incident in <i>Bufo orientalis</i> and <i>Hyla arborea</i> in Asir, S. W. Saudi Arabia Nasher, A. K., 1979.	Found free in the rectal contents and also deeply embedded in the mucosa of the large intestine. Rarely found in the stomach.	Incidence rare. Maximum one or two worms per host. Only one specimen was found in the stomach mucosa of a frog.
	Al-Hasa Oasis	Phylum Nematoda	<i>Polystoma</i> sps	Found free in the rectal contents of the host.	Not of common incidence.
	Al-Katif Oasis	Phylum Platyhelminthes Class Trematoda	<i>Diplostomum</i> (Tylodelphys) (Metacercariae)	In the body cavity near the axilla of the arms.	A few metacerciae were found attached to and covered by mesenteries (host reaction?).
			<i>Pleurogenoides compactus</i> (Stromi 1940)	Mucosa of duodenum, intestine and rectum. Rarely in urinary bladder.	All Trematodes usually covered over by a great deal of mucous.
			<i>Pleurogenoides Stromi</i> (Travassos 1930) Described incident in the small intestine of a 'Frog', Ali M. M., Kalanthan, A., Rahman, M. M., Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1981.	Mucosa of duodenum and rectum.	
			<i>Opisthoglyphe ranae</i> (Frölich, 1791)	Musoca of small intestine.	
			<i>Codonocephalus uringer</i> (Rudolphi, 1891) metacercariae.	Attached to gut mesenteries and body wall.	Examination of cyst in frog ringer revealed very slight laboured movement of metacercariae inside the cyst.
	Al-Katif Oasis	Phylum Acanthocephala	<i>Centrorhynchus</i> sps (immature stage)	In the mesenteries near the stomach and the upper region of the small intestine.	Parasite found inside bright orange cysts. Groups of three to four cysts were held together by host mesenteries. On Microdissection of the cyst, the juvenile form of the parasite was found. The cysts lost the bright orange colour when stored in alcohol.

TABLE 1: Parasites of *Rana ridibunda*.