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ON AN OCCURRENCE OF *ASCARIS* IN THE  
 INTESTINE OF A BEAR,  
*URSUS ARCTOS YESOENSIS* LYD.

BY

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(With three text-figures)

A careful search for any example of the parasite in the bear, *Ursus arctos yesoensis* which is found abundantly in Hokkaido and proves a delicious food of the aborigines, the Ainu who oftentimes eats the flesh raw, has hitherto proved negative. On January 20 1934 a male bear was examined which had been killed by the Ainu for the bear festival after having been raised in the cage for a year since its birth.\* Numerous nematode parasites were found in the intestine. They were all living and quite active. The bear, on the contrary, looked somewhat weak and less active as compared with others under the same care, apparently on account of the infection.

With the kind assistance of Dr. K. ICHIKAWA in the veterinary institute of the university to whose kindness the authors wish to acknowledge their indebtedness, they could identify the species of the worm, referring it to *Ascaris lumbricoides* L.. This is most common and cosmopolitan species which has been known hitherto infesting man (1,3), gorilla (4), monkey (4), pig (3,4), dog (3), sheep (2), cow (3), deer (3), and squirrel (4).

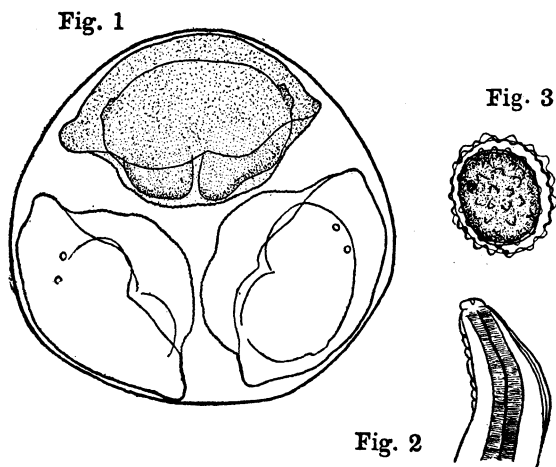


Fig. 1. Head end from front.  $\times 40$ . Fig. 2. Anterior body part, ventral view.  $\times 5$ . Fig. 3. Egg.  $\times 250$ .

\* This was a wild bear which was captured in a den with the mother bear soon after its birth.

The description of the nematode is as follows:

Body white, firm and elastic; head consisting of three prominent lips with dentigerous ridges surrounding the mouth and supplied with papillae; interlabia absent; cervical alae present but very short and narrow.

Male: tail conical without caudal alae, with numerous preanal and few postanal papillae; two equal spicules; body 190 mm. long and 2.5 mm. in diameter.

Female: vulva at anterior third of the body; vagina directed backwards; two uterine tubes; oviparous, eggs with a thick smooth shell surrounded by an albuminous coat having a coarsely granular surface; body 210 mm. long and 4.5 mm. in diameter.

Remarks. Usually *Ascaris lumbricoides* L. has no cervical alae but in the present case there are distinct ones as seen in the figure. Such a structure is also found sometimes in *Ascaris lumbricoides* of the pig.

It has become clear that the general hosts of this worm so far investigated are herbivores and omnivores. The bear was fed after the Ainu custom on just the same foods as comprise the human diet.

### Literature

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