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C. T. McAllister
Eastern Oklahoma State College, cmcallister@se.edu

W. E. Moser
National Museum of Natural History

D. J. Richardson
Quinnipiac University

H. W. Robison
Southern Arkansas University

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New Host and Geographic Distribution Record for the Leech, *Myzobdella reducta* (Annelida: Hirudinida: Rhynchobdellida: Piscicolidae), from Arkansas

C.T. McAllister¹, ⁵, W.E. Moser², D.J. Richardson³, and H.W. Robison⁴

¹Science and Mathematics Division, Eastern Oklahoma State College, Idabel, OK 74745.
²Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Department of Invertebrate Zoology, Museum Support Center–MRC 534, 4210 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, MD 20746.
³Department of Biological Sciences, Quinnipiac University, 275 Mt. Carmel Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518.
⁴Department of Biology, Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia, AR 71754

Little is known about the leeches infesting fishes in Arkansas. Klemm (1982) provided a synopsis on leeches which included some information on those hosted by fishes in Arkansas, and Hoffman (1999) provided a summation of parasites (including leeches) of North American freshwater fishes. Williams and Burreson (2005) described a new genus and species of piscicolid leech, *Cystobranchus klemmi* (as *Gonimosobdella klemmi*), from cyprinid fishes of the state. Moser et al. (2006) reported on the leeches of northern Arkansas, and McAllister et al. (2011) documented a new host and state record for *Actinobdella inequinannulata*. In addition, specimens of the fish leech, *Placobdella phalera* from Arkansas reported by Moser (2006), have been redetermined to be *Placobdella translucens* (Richardson et al. 2012). Herein, we document a new host and state record for a piscicolid leech from north–central Arkansas.

On 28 July and 18 November 2011, and again on 26 April 2012, 12 (5 males, 7 females) adult pirate perches, *Aphredoderus sayanus* (mean total length [TL] ± 1SD = 79.3 ± 8.7, range 61–93 mm) were taken with a standard aquatic dipnet from Spring Creek at James Switch off St. Hwy 69, Independence County, Arkansas (35.828241°N, 91.724325°W). The habitat and geographic locale were unusual for *A. sayanus* as the site was a cold spring-fed stream situated in the Ozarks rather than the quiet ponds, oxbow lakes, swamps, ditches, and sluggish mud and sand–bottomed small rivers and streams of the lowlands (Robison and Buchanan 1988, Page and Burr 2011). Fishes were placed in a container of habitat water and within 24 hrs anesthetized with tricaine–methanesulfonate (MS-222, Syndel Laboratories, Ltd., BC, Canada) prior to examination. Leeches were placed in a Petri dish containing 0.6% saline and examined under a stereomicroscope. Specimens were transferred to individual vials containing 10% ethanol, gradually relaxed in increasing ethanol grades up to 70%, then transferred to 10% neutral buffered formalin. Leeches were identified according to taxonomic keys of Klemm (1982, 1985). Preserved specimens had lost some coloration, but clearly had longitudinal stripes.

Voucher specimens of the leeches were deposited in the Invertebrate Zoology Collections of the Department of Invertebrate Zoology, National Museum of Natural History (USNM), Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Host vouchers were deposited in the fish collection at Henderson State University (HSU), Arkadelphia, Arkansas, as HSU 3456.

Eight leeches (USNM 1177587, 1184048) were found on the caudal or pectoral fins of 5 of 12 (42%) *A. sayanus* (TL = 63, 77, 80, 85 and 90 mm) and subsequently identified as *Myzobdella reducta* (Meyer 1940); 2 female and 3 male *A. sayanus* were infested. No significant histopathology was observed on fishes except a minor inflammatory response. We include (as Fig. 1) what we believe to be the first ever photomicrograph of this leech.

*Myzobdella reducta* is an opportunistic blood–feeding species on fish and has been collected infrequently with a scattered distribution in eastern North America, including the Great Lakes and Mississippi River drainages (Moser et al. 2006). This leech was described by Meyer (1940) from the slenderhead darter, *Percina phoxocephala* in Illinois. Williams and Burreson (2006) synonymized *Piscicolaria* with *Myzobdella* based on molecular sequence data. This leech has been reported on fishes from Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Wisconsin, and Ontario, Canada (Hoffman 1999, Richardson et al. 2012) (Fig. 2). *Myzobdella reducta* has been reported from a wide variety of fishes, including lake chubsucker (*Erinymyzon succeta*), emerald shiner (*Notropis atherinoides*), golden shiner (*Notropis lutacius*), slenderhead darter (*Percina phoxocephala*), striped shiner (*P. fasciata*), common darter (*P. flabellum*), common darter (*P. flabellum*), and longnose dace (*P. lucius*). It is capable of feeding on a wide variety of invertebrates, including copepods, ostracods, and cladocerans.
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To our knowledge, A. sayanus, has not been previously reported to be infested with any leech species. Interestingly, M. reducta has been reported previously from the state; however, no specific data was provided (Klemm 1982, Moser et al. 2006, Richardson et al. 2012). Therefore, our specimens represent the first definitive record (with genuine vouchers) for Arkansas as well as new host records.

Acknowledgments

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Literature Cited


