

# Cestode Parasites (Platyhelminthes) of Rodents from New Guinea and Adjacent Islands with a Redescription of *Paroniella blanchardi* (Parona, 1897) (Davaineidae)

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**ABSTRACT.** Cestodes collected from a variety of species of rodents of the genera *Chiruromys* Thomas, 1888, *Hydromys* Geoffroy, 1804, *Melomys* Thomas, 1922, *Paramelomys* Rümmler, 1936, *Pogonomys* Milne-Edwards, 1877, *Rattus* Fischer de Waldheim, 1803 and *Uromys* Peters, 1867 from New Guinea and adjacent islands are reported. The species most frequently encountered was the cosmopolitan species *Hymenolepis diminuta* (Rudolphi, 1819) with a single occurrence of the related hymenolepidid *Rodentolepis fraterna* (Stiles, 1906). Davaineid cestodes were common with *Raillietina celebensis* (Janicki, 1902) and *R. melomyos* Jones & Anderson, 1996 being found in several host species. *Paroniella blanchardi* (Parona, 1897) is reported and is redescribed together with an apparently novel species of *Paroniella* Fuhrmann, 1920. Two species of *Bertiella* Stiles & Hassall, 1902, *B. anapolytica* Baylis, 1934 and *B. musasabi* Yamaguti, 1942 were encountered considerably extending their known host and geographical ranges. *Mathevotaenia niuguiniensis* Beveridge, 2008, previously reported from New Guinea was found in additional host species. A dilepidid cestode species was also found but the material available was insufficient to allow identification. Numerous new host species are reported for the cestodes described.

**KEYWORDS.** Cestoda; parasites; Platyhelminthes; rodents; New Guinea

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The island of New Guinea and its adjacent islands are home to a diverse array of rodents (Flannery, 1995a, 1995b; Rowe *et al.*, 2008). The cestode fauna of rodents in New Guinea and its adjacent territories is extremely poorly documented, in spite of the propensity of these rodents to harbour cestodes of zoonotic significance. Both *Hymenolepis diminuta*

(Rudolphi, 1819) and *Rodentolepis nana* (Siebold, 1852) (as *Hymenolepis nana*) have been reported from humans in Papua New Guinea and are considered to be zoonotic (Owen, 2005).

Reports of cestodes from rodents however are limited. Jones & Anderson (1990) reported *H. diminuta* from