

## *Goussia platichthys* sp. n. (Sporozoa, Coccidia) from the Flounder *Platichthys flesus* (L.) (Pisces: Pleuronectidae)

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Faeces from five fish caught in the delta of the Neman River (Courish Lagoon) in July through August 2000 were examined. A new species of the genus *Goussia* found in one of these fish is described in the paper. Oocysts irregular in shape,  $30\text{-}35 \times 27.5\text{-}30 \mu\text{m}$  with a membrane-like wall without oocyst residuum, sporocysts  $15\text{-}20 \times 10\text{-}12.5 \mu\text{m}$  are densely covered with oocyst's wall or they lie freely in the oocyst, without Stieda body, sporocyst residuum formed by four or six granules. Sporogony: endogenous.

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Five fish caught in the delta of the Neman River (Courish Lagoon) in July through August 2000 were examined. After dissection of fish, the intestine content was placed on object-plate, 1-2 drops of sterile water were added and it was covered by cover glass. The preparations were examined using ocular ruler, division (ocular 7 $\times$ , objective 90 $\times$ ) is equal to 1.1  $\mu\text{m}$ .

### *Goussia platichthys* sp. n.

*Host type:* *Platichthys flesus* (L.) (Pleuronectiformes, Pleuronectidae).

*Location in host:* unknown; oocysts were found in faeces.

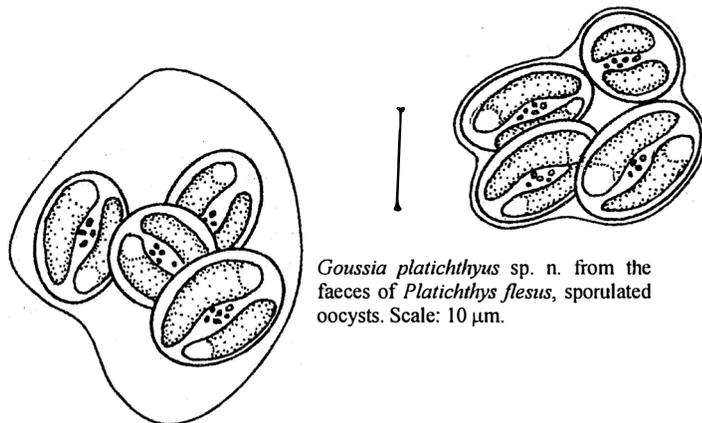
*Type locality:* Russia, Neman River, Courish Lagoon.

*Prevalence:* 20% (1/5).

*Sporogony:* endogenous.

*Description.* Oocysts irregular in shape,  $30\text{-}35 \times 27.5\text{-}30 \mu\text{m}$ , with a membrane-like wall without oocyst residuum. Sporocysts  $15\text{-}20 \times 10\text{-}12.5 \mu\text{m}$ , densely covered with oocyst's wall or lying freely in the oocyst, without Stieda body. Sporocyst residuum formed by four or six granules.

*Discussion.* Prior to our research, a species of coccidia *Eimeria syaci* Diouf & Toguebaye, 1994 was described from Pleuronectiformes, suborder Pleuronectioidea. Oocysts spherical, diameter  $10.7 \pm 1.1 \mu\text{m}$ , one polar granule measuring  $0.8 \pm 0.2 \mu\text{m}$ ; ellipsoidal sporocysts measuring  $6.6 \pm 0.7 \times 4.1 \pm 0.5 \mu\text{m}$ ; a compact sporocyst residuum present; Stieda body knob-like. *Syacium micrurum* Ranzani, 1849, which is the host of this coccidia species, belongs to the family Bothidae. Coccidia discovered by us belong to the genus *Goussia* and have a number of morphological differences from coccidia described from *Syacium micrurum*.



*Goussia platichthys* sp. n. from the faeces of *Platichthys flesus*, sporulated oocysts. Scale: 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

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