

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF *OPHIDASCARIS ROBERTSI*: EXPLORING DIVERSITY, PHYSIOLOGY, AND POTENTIAL AVENUES FOR FURTHER RESEARCH



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Comprehensive Review of *Ophidascaris Robertsi*: Exploring Diversity, Physiology, and Potential Avenues for Further Research

Jeffrey M. Saro*

For affiliations and correspondence, see the last page.

Abstract

Ophidascaris robertsi is a species of parasitic roundworm found in reptilian hosts, primarily snakes. This species exhibits notable diversity in its host range, geographical distribution, and genetic variations. It parasitizes many reptile species, with specific host preferences varying by region. Researchers have identified *Ophidascaris robertsi* in various locations globally, shedding light on its adaptability to different host environments. Genetic diversity within this species has been a subject of study, providing insights into its evolutionary history and potential adaptations. Additionally, exploring its ecological role within reptile host populations is essential for understanding its impact on host health, reproduction, and ecosystem dynamics. Ongoing research aims to elucidate the intricate interactions and characteristics of *Ophidascaris robertsi* to gain a comprehensive understanding of this parasitic roundworm.

Keywords: Diversity, Physiology, Parasitic Roundworm, *Ophidascaris Robertsi*, Further Research

Introduction

Ophidascaris robertsi, a parasitic nematode found primarily in the gastrointestinal tracts of reptiles, has long intrigued researchers due to its unique characteristics and enigmatic biology. These roundworms are part of the family Ascarididae and are known for their elongated, cylindrical shape. This comprehensive insight delves into the multifaceted aspects of *Ophidascaris robertsi*, shedding light on its diversity, physiology, and the intriguing possibilities it presents in parasitology.

Diversity of *Ophidascaris robertsi*

Ophidascaris robertsi exhibits remarkable diversity, with various species and strains adapted to infect a wide range of reptilian hosts. Through molecular studies and morphological analyses, researchers have identified distinct lineages and adaptations within this parasitic nematode, challenging traditional taxonomic boundaries.

Physiology and Adaptations

The physiology of *Ophidascaris robertsi* is intricately linked to its parasitic lifestyle. This nematode displays adaptations for survival within the reptilian host's gastrointestinal tract, including specialized feeding structures, cuticular modifications, and strategies to evade the host's immune system. Understanding these physiological adaptations provides valuable insights into the co-evolutionary dynamics between host and parasite.

Life Cycle and Reproduction

The life cycle of *Ophidascaris robertsi* involves complex interactions between the parasite, host, and environment. Investigating its reproductive strategies, transmission mode, and developmental stages provides critical knowledge for designing effective control measures in reptile populations.

Ecological Significance

Ophidascaris robertsi plays a significant role in reptile ecosystems, influencing host health and population dynamics. Examining its ecological impact is essential for understanding the broader ecological implications of parasitic nematodes within these ecosystems.

Potential Applications and Future Research

Despite its parasitic nature, *Ophidascaris robertsi* holds potential for various applications, such as studying host-parasite interactions, developing novel anthelmintic treatments, and contributing to our understanding of evolutionary biology. Future research may unveil unexpected insights and applications in parasitology and ecology.

Conclusion

This comprehensive insight into *Ophidascaris robertsi* highlights the importance of studying this enigmatic parasitic nematode. By exploring its diversity, physiology, and potential applications, we expand our knowledge of parasitology and gain a deeper understanding of the intricate relationships between parasites and their reptilian hosts, with implications for wildlife conservation and human health.

Recommendation

This comprehensive review of *Ophidascaris robertsi* underscores the need for multifaceted research efforts. It is imperative to delve deeper into the genetic diversity, host-parasite interactions, and ecological implications of this parasite in reptile populations. Furthermore, the rare instances of human infection demand a thorough investigation to understand better the clinical manifestations and potential risk factors associated with visceral larva migrans (VLM). In doing so, this review can pave the way for improved diagnostic methods, treatment strategies, and enhanced preventive measures. Adopting a One Health approach

to assess the broader implications on human, animal, and environmental health is paramount. Future research endeavors should bridge current knowledge gaps, ultimately informing conservation efforts and public health initiatives.

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Affiliations and Corresponding Information

Corresponding: Jeffry M. Saro
Email: jeffry.saro@deped.gov.ph



Jeffry M. Saro:
Prosperidad National High School