

PARASITIC LARVAE OF EQUID'  
STRONGYLIDAE (NEMATODA) AND USE  
OF THEIR CHARACTERISTICS  
FOR TAXONOMY OF THE GROUP

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The parasitic larvae of Strongylidae are studied not enough compared to adults. The aims of our work were: studying of morphology of parasitic larvae of late 4th stage (L4); identification its to adults; estimation of possibility of using morphological characteristics for systematic of this group. We used collection of helminths of horses from Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, Prjevalski horses and Asiatic wild ass. The larvae were collected using autolysing of gut mucosa technic. L4 have both their own characters and characters of adults (transitional): shape of oesophagus, location of excretory pore and cervical papillae, shape of females tale. Presence both provisory and definitive buccal capsule in moulted larvae and such transitional characters were used for identification L4 to adults.

Now L4 of 30 species of strongylids are known. Except its of large strongylids — *Strongylus*, *Alfortia* and *Delafondia* — others have well developed buccal capsule, which differs from same of adults. The structure of L4 buccal capsule is: *cheilostom*, *protostom* and *telostom* with teeth. It seems to be like in Diplogastridae (Rhabditida). The cheilostoma has one or two leave-crowns. The structure which is analogical to mouth collar support of adults also present.

The structure of L4 is more simple compared to adults and using of L4 characters seems to be more useful for estimation of relationship of separate genera and provides additional information for construction of classification with using characters of adults. The larvae of small strongylids develop in mucosa of gut and have buccal capsule what make them similar to Cyathostominae. The evidences of close relationship of *Poteriostomum* and *Cylicodontophorus* and independence of *Petrovinema* have been obtained.