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Gordionus chinensis and *Gordionus kii* sp. nov. (Nematomorpha: Gordiida), New Reports of the Genus *Gordionus* in Japan

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Eleven species representing four genera of freshwater horsehair worms (Gordiida, Nematomorpha) have been known from Japan. The presence of representatives of the genus *Gordionus* was likely, but until now the available material did not allow such a determination. We here report several specimens of *Gordionus chinensis* (Villot, 1874) from the Yumitehara River in Nara Prefecture, which differ only in one minute detail from the original description of this species. Characteristic for this species are sparse knob-like structures occurring between the cuticular areoles. In the Japanese specimens, these knobs occur at the midpoint of the common border between pairs of neighbouring areoles and also in the corners where several areoles meet, but in the description of the Chinese holotype, such knobs occur only in the former position. One male specimen from the same locality differs distinctly from the others in having shorter bristles flanking the cloacal opening and longer spines on the inner sides of the tail lobes. We regard it as representing a new species, herein named *Gordionus kii*.
Key Words: Nematomorpha, Gordiida, horsehair worms, Japan, Nara Prefecture, taxonomy, SEM, new species.

Introduction

Eleven species of freshwater Nematomorpha (Gordiida) have been reported from Japan (Inoue 1955; Fukui and Inoue 1973; Schmidt-Rhaesa 2004; Ichikawa 2007). They are usually found free-living in freshwater habitats, but this constitutes only one phase of their life cycle. During most of their life they live as endoparasites in an assortment of insect species (Hanelt *et al.* 2005). For Japan, praying mantids are well known as hosts, at least for nematomorph species of the genus *Chordodes* (Inoue 1962; Schmidt-Rhaesa and Ehrmann 2001; Schmidt-Rhaesa 2004). Most hosts are terrestrial insects and the nematomorphs alter their behaviour and influence them to jump into water (Thomas *et al.* 2002). Thereby, such parasitized