

VARIATION IN THE PROBOSCIS SPINES OF *PALLISENTIS MAGNUM* SAEED AND BILQEES, 1971

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Pallisentis magnum Saeed and Bilqees, 1971 was reported from *Wallago attu* of Kalri (Kinjhar) Lake, Sind [1], having 28-30 proboscis spines measuring 0.28–0.32 by 0.16–0.20. Variations have been observed by the present authors in the specimens of *P. magnum* collected recently from the same host and locality. A total of 23 specimens including 14 males and 9 females were studied. Surface electron microscopy of the proboscis was carried out to verify the proboscis armature. The same procedure was adopted as described previously (Bilqees, 2,3) for this purpose. Surface electron microscopy revealed that the proboscis spines are 32 instead of 28-30 as described originally and all are curved ventrally with pointed ends having prominent basal swellings; the spines are of unequal size and arranged in 4 rows. The spines of the first row are the largest, measuring 0.063–0.82 by 0.012–0.020 followed by the second row of spines 0.0576–0.0612 by 0.0072–0.00108, spines of the third row 0.0432–0.0504 by 0.00468–0.0072 and of the fourth row 0.032–0.039 by 0.0054–0.0068 in size all the measurements given are in millimetres. The folding of the cuticle at the base of the spines was not obvious in the light microscopy. The folded cuticle (Fig. 1) is probably for the purpose of protection was indicated previously [4] for other species.

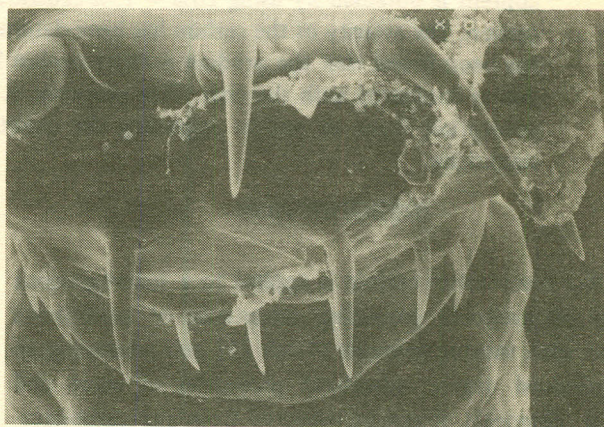


Fig. 1. Surface electron microscopy of proboscis spines of *P. magnum* Saeed and Bilqees, 1971. For this purpose specimens were fixed in cold 4% glutaraldehyde in buffered cacodylic acid, washed and kept in buffer for 2 hr. and dehydrated in graded alcohol. Later the specimens were cleared in acetone, dried by the critical point method, mounted on stubs with Araldite and coated with gold.

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