

# *Isospora schoenobaeni* sp. n. (Protozoa: Eimeriidae) from the Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*)

O.V. Dolnik

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Faeces from *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* caught on the Courish spit (Baltic Sea) were examined for coccidia. 9 of 15 birds (60%) had undescribed isosporan oocysts in their faeces. Sporulation took 72 hours at 20 °C. Sporulated oocysts of *Isospora schoenobaeni* sp. n. are spherical, 27.0 (24.3-29.0) µm, with oocyst wall ca. 1.5 µm thick; a polar granule is present, but no oocyst residuum or micropile occurred. Sporocysts are ovoid, 20.7 (18.2-22.4) × 12.8 (12.0-13.8) µm, with a nipple-like Stieda body and a medium substieda body. A sporocyst residuum was present in the form of numerous minute globules, and 4 sporozoites 6.7 × 4.6 µm in average were lying in the sporocysts. This is the first description of *Isospora* from the genus *Acrocephalus*.

O.V. Dolnik, Zoological Institute Russian Academy of Sciences, Universitetskaya nab. 1, St. Petersburg 199034, Russia.

In July and August 1997 15 Sedge Warblers (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*) were trapped by mistnets in the time between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. on the Courish spit of the Baltic Sea. Faecal samples were collected immediately, put in 2.5% K<sub>2</sub>Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> solution and left at 20 ± 2 °C for oocyst sporulation. Sporulation took 72 hours at 20 °C. Samples were examined by flotation using NaCl. Sporocysts were found in 9 (60%) of 15 birds examined. The new species of *Isospora* revealed is described below. In all measurements size ranges in parentheses follow the means. Photographs are kept in the Zoological Institute, St.Petersburg.

## *Isospora schoenobaeni* sp. n. (Figs 1-2)

*Host type:* *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* (Passeriformes: Sylviidae).

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

*Type locality:* Courish spit of the Baltic Sea, Russia.

*Description.* Sporulated oocysts spherical, 27.0 (24.3-29.0) µm. Oocyst wall ca. 1.5 µm thick, without a micropile. One polar granula is present, but no oocyst residuum occurs. Sporocysts ovoid, 20.7 (18.2-

22.4) × 12.8 (12.0-13.8) µm, with a nipple-like Stieda body and a medium substieda body. Sporocyst residuum present in the form of numerous minute globules; 4 sporozoites 6.7 × 4.6 µm in average are lying in the sporocysts.

*Discussion.* No *Isospora* species have been described previously from *Acrocephalus*. As all species of *Isospora* are genus-specific parasites, it is obvious that the species described above is new.

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Fig. 1. *Isospora schoenobaeni* sp. n. from *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. Magnification 1000×.

Fig. 2. Line drawing of sporulated oocyst of *Isospora schoenobaeni* sp. n. Scale: 10 µm.

