

**MESALINA OLIVIERI (Olivier's Sand Lizard). CESTODE EN-DOPARASITES.** *Mesalina olivieri* is known from Algeria, Western Sahara, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia (Bar and Haimovitch 2011. A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Israel. Herzliya, Israel. 245 pp.). We know of no endoparasite records for this species. The purpose of this note is to establish the initial helminth list for *M. olivieri*.

One female *M. olivieri* (SVL = 48 mm) collected April 1956 in the Central Negev Region, Israel and deposited in the herpetology collection of the Tel Aviv Museum of Natural History (TAUM), Tel Aviv, Israel as TAUM 2201, was examined for endoparasites. A lateral slit was made on the left side and the coelomic cavity was examined for endoparasites using a dissecting microscope. Found were 30 oblong whitish, bodies measuring ca. 1 mm in length. They were regressively stained in hematoxylin, cleared in xylol, mounted in balsam, studied under a compound microscope and identified as tetrathyridia larvae of the

cestode, *Mesocestoides* sp. Voucher helminths were deposited in the United States National Parasite Collection, USNPC, Beltsville, Maryland as USNPC 107017. The life cycle of *Mesocestoides* sp. is unknown but is thought to utilize three hosts, a vertebrate definitive host, a vertebrate second intermediate host and an arthropod first intermediate host (Rausch 1994. In Khalil et al. [eds.], Keys to the Cestode Parasites of Vertebrates, pp. 309–314. CAM International, Oxon, U.K.). Tetrathyridia are commonly found in the body cavities of amphibians, reptiles, and rodents (Padgett and Boyce 2004. J. Parasitol. 90:108–113). *Mesocestoides* sp. was previously reported in the congener *M. guttulata* from Israel (Goldberg and Bursey 2012. Herpetol. Rev. 43:136). *Mesocestoides* sp. in *Mesalina olivieri* is a new host record.

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