

FIRST RECORD OF *CHORDODES CREPLIN*, 1847 (NEMATOMORPHA, GORDIOIDEA) SPECIES FROM A HILLSTREAM OF BANDARBAN, BANGLADESH

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One *Sutanoli Shap* (local name) was caught from a freshwater hill-stream known as *Shaila Propat* at Bandarban (location 22°09'02.31' N and 92°13'00.28' E) on 12th November 2014 during an exploration survey by IUCN team. The habitat is shown in Plate 1.



Plate. 1. Habitat of the collected *Chordodes Nematoproha* at *Shaila Propat* hill-stream at Bandarban

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The collected sample is preserved in the museum of the Department of Zoology, University of Dhaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh. We have identified it as one of the Phylum Nematomorpha species for the first time record from Bangladesh geographical area. The worm is often referred to as "horsehair worms" as they are very long and thin without a distinct head (Storer *et al.* 1979). Until the late 1800's it was believed that these worms were shed into the water from horse's manes and tails (Hickman 1973, Barnes 1980). The collected Nematomorphs is 31.5 centimeters in length and 0.493 gram of weight (Plate 2). It lacks a distinct head, but possesses a thick iridescent white cuticle. In live condition, it was very active and performing its locomotion by whipping like undulations.

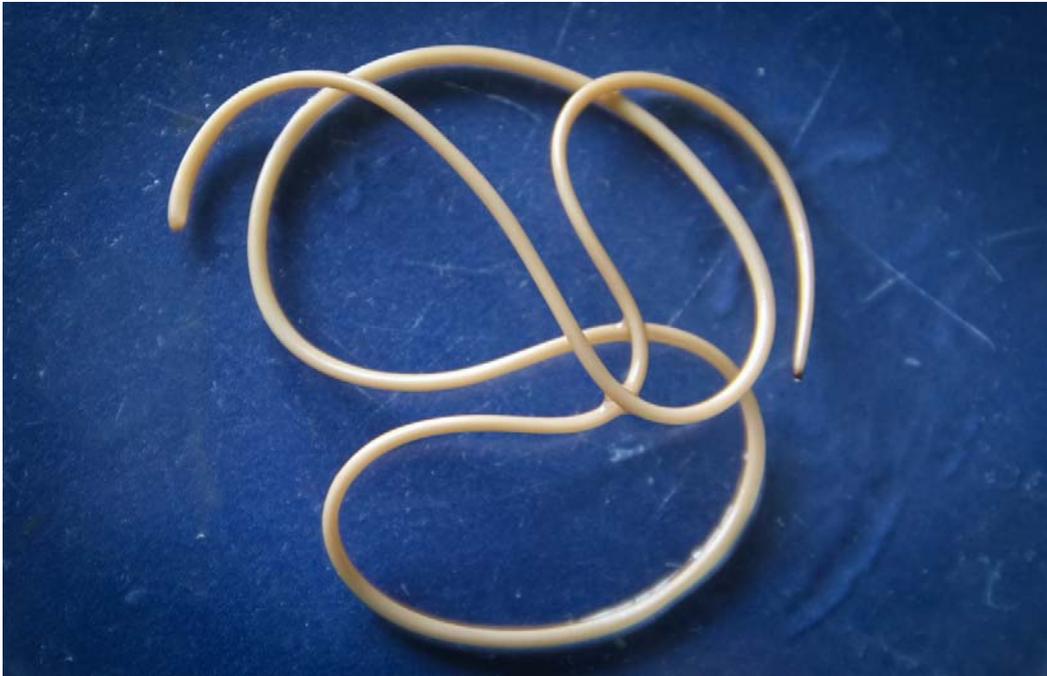


Plate 2. Adult free living Horsehair worm, *Chordodes* Creplin, 1847 (Nematomorpha: Gordioidea) collected at *Shaila Propat* hill-stream at Bandarban.

We also confirm from the morphological features that the genus is an adult form of *Chordodes* Creplin, 1847 under the Family Chordodidae and order Gordioidea. Seventeen species of freshwater Nematomorpha have been reported from India of which seven belongs to the genus *Chordodes* (Schmidt-Rhaesa and Lalramliana 2011, Schmidt-Rhaesa and Yadav 2013). We believe the collected specimen belongs to one of the species from the reported genus as species identification needs to be done by scanning electron microscopy.

From literature, it is noted that the adult worms are free living, but that the larval forms are parasitic to Arthropod host, such as orthopterans, mantids, beetles, cockroaches and crustaceans (Schmidt-Rhaesa and Ehrmann 2001, Hanelt *et al.* 2005). About 351 freshwater species are known (Zhang 2011) and a conservative estimate suggests that there may be about 2000 freshwater species worldwide (Poinar Jr. 2008). It is not known from the present habitat about the larvae and their hosts. It is also unknown for how long the pre-parasitic forms can encyst before they exhaust their metabolic reserves and die (Hanelt *et al.* 2005).

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