

The male is 13 to 16 mm. in length; the tail end occupies $\frac{1}{89}$ of the total length; the two cirri are of equal breadth, and measure 0.72 and 0.86 mm. in length; the shorter has a bow-shaped curvature in the middle, and the longer is sabre-shaped; in front of the cloaca there are on each side four very small, scarcely perceptible papillæ. The female measures 29 to 31 mm.; the tail end occupies only $\frac{1}{31}$ of the total length; the vulva lies very far forward, only 0.6 mm. distant from the head end. The ova are elliptical and very thick shelled; the shell is 0.0066 mm. in thickness; the ova are 0.049 mm. in length and 0.031 mm. in breadth.

This *Filaria* was found by R. von Willemoes Suhm, who died on the Challenger Expedition. He has referred to it in the following lines:¹—"Under the skin and on several positions in the abdominal cavity I found free *Filaria*, such as not unfrequently occur in our crow-like birds. There were no other Helminths in the intestine. This is probably the first time that any one has examined fresh Birds of Paradise in search for Helminths, and the case is on that account worth noting, since the beautiful creature is always mentioned in the first rank of birds, although it is in reality nothing more than 'a crow developed by sexual selection.'"

Five species of *Filaria* are known in which the mouth exhibits a chitinous armature similar to that of the above form.

Filaria tricuspis, Fedtschenko,² from *Corvus cornix*, which is very similar to the above species, but has larger cirri, which measure 1.6 and 1.2 mm. in length, while the chitinous plates on the head are smaller, attaining a length of only 0.12 mm. The total length is, however, much greater, for the female is 150 mm. in length. *Filaria ecaudata*, Oerley,³ from *Lamprotornis aeneus*, is very probably identical with *Filaria tricuspis*, *Filaria obtusa*, Rudolphi⁴ (*non* Schneider), from *Hirundo rustica*, *Hirundo urbica*, and *Hirundo riparia* has its breadth and length in the proportion of 1 : 80, and the shorter spicule is twice as broad as the longer.

Filaria pungens, Schneider,⁵ has numerous large papillæ on the tail end of the male, and was found in *Turdus cyaneus*.

The unnamed *Filaria* found by Parona⁶ in *Buceros nasutus* was a female, so that comparison is impossible.

It is remarkable that these species, which resemble one another so closely, were all found in Birds.

¹ Challenger Briefe von R. v. Willemoes Suhm, Leipzig, 1877, pp. 127, 128; *Zeitschr. f. wiss. Zool.*, Bd. xxvi. p. lxii., 1875.

² *Soc. Nat. Hist. Moscow*, x. pp. 10-11. Von Linstow, *Archiv f. Naturgesch.*, Jahrg. xlix. Bd. i., 1883, p. 285, pl. vii. fig. 16.

³ Oerley, Report on the Nematodes in the possession of the British Museum, *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 5, vol. ix. pp. 312, 313, pl. x. figs. 1 a-d, 1882.

⁴ Dujardin, *Hist. Nat. des Helminthes*, pp. 53-54, pl. iii. fig. J, 1-2.

⁵ *Monographie der Nematoden*, pp. 92, 93, pl. vi. fig. 2.

⁶ *Di alcuni elminti raccolti nel Sudan orientale*, Genova, 1885, pp. 433, 434, pl. vii. fig. 14.