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Morphological and Molecular Characterization of *Plagiorchis elegans* Cercariae from Snails, *Lymnaea stagnalis*, in Southern Russia

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Abstract

This study provides, for the first time, a morphological description and molecular data for plagiorchiid cercariae found in the digestive glands of snails, *Lymnaea stagnalis*, from the Biyuk-Karasu River basin, southern Russia. On the basis of morphological features, the found cercariae have been identified as belonging to the family Plagiorchiidae. A phylogenetic analysis using 28S rDNA gene sequences has confirmed the species identification as *Plagiorchis elegans.*

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