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The ground skink, *Scincella lateralis* Say is a small brown lizard that inhabits the forest floor, leaf litter, and decaying logs ranging from southern New Jersey to the Florida Keys and west to eastern Kansas and west central Texas (Brooks 1975; Conant and Collins 1998). Some information is available on endoparasites of the species, including reports of coccidians (*Eimeria* and *Isospora* spp.) in ground skinks from Florida (Telford 1997) and Louisiana (Atkinson and Ayala 1987) and helminths from *S. lateralis* in Florida (Brooks 1963, 1972; Telford and Bursey 2003) and Texas (Harwood 1932). However, nothing, to our knowledge, has been reported on endoparasites of *S. lateralis* from Oklahoma. Herein we report on a nematode infecting this host in the state, including the first report of this parasite in Oklahoma.

On 14 April 1989, four adult *S. lateralis* (2 males, 2 females, SVL range = 34-41 mm, mean ± 1SD = 38.3 ± 2.9 mm) were collected in the vicinity of the University of Oklahoma Biological Station, Marshall County, Oklahoma (33° 52.58’N, 96° 48.21’W). Specimens were placed in individual bags on ice and killed within 24 hours with a dilute intraperitoneal injection of sodium pentobarbital (Nembutal®). A midventral incision was placed from the throat to anus and the entire gastrointestinal tract, lungs, liver, gall bladder, kidneys, urinary bladder, reproductive organs, musculature, and body cavity examined for endoparasites. Their feces were examined for coccidia following previously published methods (Upton et al. 1988). Nematodes were placed in a drop of glycerol on microscopic slides and identifications were made from these temporary mounts.

Helminth voucher specimens were deposited in the United States National Parasite Collection (USNPC), Beltsville, Maryland, USA, as USNPC 84249-84250 (vials). Skink voucher specimens were deposited in the Arkansas State University Museum, Herpetological Collection, State University, Arkansas, USA, as ASUMZ 13142-13145. All four (100%) *S. lateralis* were found to harbor a total of 29 nematodes (nine males, 20 females) in their stomachs fitting the description of *Physaloptera squamatae* (Harwood 1932); intensity ranged from three to 12 nematodes per host (mean ± 1SD = 7.0 ± 3.9). This nematode was originally described by Harwood (1932) from *S. lateralis* and the broad-banded copperhead, *Agkistrodon contortrix laticinctus* from Houston, Texas. Skinks were not found to be passing any coccidian oocysts in their feces. This was not too surprising given that Upton et al (1988) found no coccidia in 26 *S. lateralis* from Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Additional hosts of *P. squamatae* include several species of lizards from different locales, primarily from the Caribbean and tropics of Cuba (Table 1). Physalopterans require various insect intermediate hosts in the life cycle, including earwigs, crickets, grasshoppers, cockroaches, and beetles infected with third-stage larvae (Schell 1952;
Table 1. Hosts and localities of *Physaloptera squamatae*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family/Host</th>
<th>Locale</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phrynosomatidae</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Sce1oporus woodi</em></td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Telford and Bursey 2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>Polychrotidae¹</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Anolis allogus</em></td>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>Coy Otero and Baruš 1979</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>A. baracoae</em></td>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>Coy Otero and Baruš 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>A. bremeri</em></td>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>Coy Otero and Baruš 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>A. equestris</em></td>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>Baruš and Coy Otero 1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>Baruš and Coy Otero 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>Coy Otero 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>Coy Otero and Baruš 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>A. homolechis</em></td>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>Coy Otero and Baruš 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>A. lucius</em></td>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>Coy Otero and Baruš 1979</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>A. sagrei</em></td>
<td>Bahamas</td>
<td>Goldberg et al 1994</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cayman Islands</td>
<td>Goldberg et al 1995</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>Goldberg et al 1994</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Goldberg et al 1994</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>Goldberg and Bursey 2000a;</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Goldberg et al 2002</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>A. scriptus</em></td>
<td>Caicos Islands</td>
<td>Goldberg et al 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scincidae</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Scincella lateralis</em></td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Brooks 1963, 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>McAllister and Bursey this report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>Harwood 1932; McAllister and Bursey this report²</td>
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<td>Teiidae</td>
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<td><em>Aneiva aneiva</em></td>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>Baruš and Coy Otero 1969</td>
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<td><em>A. pleei</em></td>
<td>Anguilla</td>
<td>Goldberg and Bursey 2000b</td>
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<td>Tropiduridae</td>
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<td><em>Leiocephalus carinatus</em></td>
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<td>Viperidae</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Agkistrodon contortrix pictiventris</em></td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>Harwood 1932</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹We follow Poe’s (2004) proposal that *Anolis* be supported as a monophyletic genus.
²A single *S. lateralis* collected on 2 March 1991 from Kaufman County, Texas, was infected with *P. squamatae* (USNPC 84250).
Lincoln and Anderson 1975; Anderson 1992). Interestingly, the finding of *P. squamatae* in Oklahoma *S. lateralis* represents the most northern latitude at which this helminth has been previously reported in any host, and the only one of approximately 14 species of North American scincid lizards (Crother et al. 2000) reported to harbor this parasite.

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**REFERENCES**


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