

Gyalocephalus (*G.*) *capitatus*

50 μ m

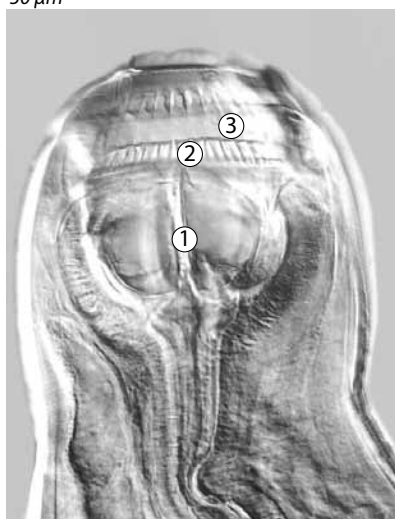


Figure 37a

Head

1. chitinous structures
2. pleats
3. heavy internal leaf elements

50 μ m

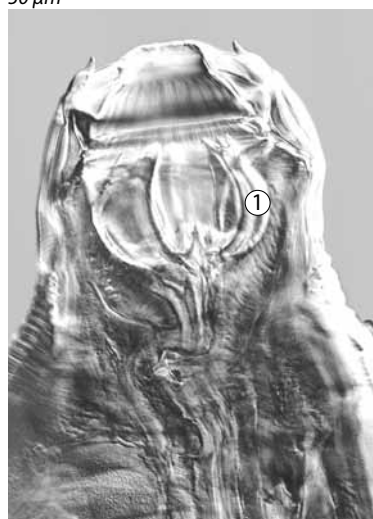


Figure 37b

Head

1. chitinous structures

50 μ m



Figure 37c

Female tail

4. tapers sharply to a point

100 μ m



Figure 37d

Male tail

5. prebursal papillae on bursa

This species was removed from the strongyle category altogether by Lichtenfels et al. (1998) and put in a category called “another tribe.” However, this is clearly one of the most beautiful and spectacular species of the cyathostomes and will always be considered a part of that group to me. It is, without a doubt, the easiest to identify because of the orb-like buccal capsule with **chitinous structures that bow outward like very thin barrel staves** (there appear to be four, but the literature says there are three that are bifurcated) that seem to **hug** the buccal capsule, coming together where they touch a **ringed plate of little tufts or pleats** at the base of the internal leaf crown. The **leaves of the internal crown** are very **broad** and quite **conspicuous**.

The **female tail** is **thin** and tapers very **sharply** to a definite **point**. The male bursa is very unusual in that it has a **pronounced flap** (prebursal papillae) hanging down the ventral side that is as long or longer than the dorsal ray. It is the only one of the 33 species with this prominent feature.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

- has an unusual orb-like buccal capsule
- chitinous structures hugging buccal capsule
- leaves of the internal crown are very broad and quite conspicuous
- male bursa has pronounced flap

Size: small

Preferred site: ventral colon/dorsal colon

Represents <1% of population