Saba River has a greater likelihood of being inhabited by populations of *Q. mitchelli*. However, this evidence is circumstantial, and, therefore, further surveys are needed to locate surviving populations of *Q. mitchelli* and to determine the distribution of the species in the San Saba River. Given the rarity of this species and declining habitat, the present time may be the only opportunity to study this species before it actually becomes extinct. Finally, this finding underscores the conclusions of Randklev et al. (2010) that populations of rare unionid species do exist and future studies must be undertaken with a focus on remote or difficult-to-access areas.

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HORSEHAIR WORM, *PARAGORDIUS VARIUS* (NEMATOMORPHA: GORDIIDA): NEW TO THE FAUNA OF OKLAHOMA

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Abstract—During July 2011, collections of several freshwater horsehair worms were made at two sites (Mud and Salt creeks) in McCurtain County, Oklahoma. The specimens were subsequently identified as *Paragordius varius* (Leidy, 1851), which represents a new nematomorph for the state. The only previously reported horsehair worm from Oklahoma is *Gordius robustus* Leidy, 1851, from Stillwater, Payne County. *Paragordius varius* is probably the most common and widespread gordiid species in the New World. It is now known from 25 (plus the District of Columbia) of the contiguous United States and three provinces of Canada and also has been reported from Hawaii and throughout South America. Collecting at several other sites in the eastern part of the state failed to recover additional *P. varius*.

Resumen—Durante julio del 2011, colecciones de varios gusanos crin de caballo se realizaron en dos sitios (Mud y Salt Creeks) en el condado de McCurtain, Oklahoma. Los especímenes fueron identificados después como *Paragordius varius* (Leidy, 1851), lo que representa un nuevo nematomorfo para el estado. El único gusano crin de caballo anteriormente registrado de Oklahoma es *Gordius robustus* Leidy, 1851, de Stillwater, condado de Payne. *Paragordius varius* es probablemente la especie gordíida más común y ampliamente distribuida en el Nuevo Mundo. Actualmente se conoce en 25 estados (más el Distrito de Columbia) de los Estados Unidos contiguos y tres provincias de Canadá y también se ha registrado de Hawaii y en toda América

del Sur. Buscar en varios otros sitios en la parte oriental de Oklahoma no logró encontrar especímenes adicionales de *P. varius*.

Juvenile horsehair or gordiid worms (Nematomorpha) are parasites of terrestrial arthropods (often crickets and beetles) and, as adults, are free-living in freshwater sites including lakes, streams, and rivers. Until recently (see Hanelt et al., 2005), compared to other phyla of animals, gordiids have received relatively little attention. One species, *Paragordius varius* (Leidy), was the first of the phylum to be laboratory-reared and is probably the most common and widespread gordiid species in the New World. It is distributed throughout 24 states (plus the District of Columbia) of the contiguous United States and three provinces of Canada and also has been reported from Hawaii and throughout South America (Schmidt-Rhaesa et al., 2003; Poinar and Chandler, 2004). However, in Oklahoma, the only species of horsehair worms previously reported from the state is *Gordius robustus* Leidy (Stillwater, Payne County; Montgomery, 1907). Herein, we document the first specimens of *P. varius* from Oklahoma.

During summer 2011, collection of freshwater horsehair worms was attempted at 10 sites, including Eagle Fork Creek, Glover River, Lukfata Creek, Mud Creek, Mountain Fork River, Salt Creek, Steven's Creek, Yanubbee Creek, Yashau Creek, and White Oak Creek in McCurtain County, Oklahoma. These sites ranged from intermittent lowland creeks to deeper upland rivers supporting a wide variety of aquatic fauna. When collected, horsehair worms were placed in vials containing 70% ethanol and sent to one author (BH) for identification. Voucher specimens were deposited in the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History collection as USNM 1156922 and the University of New Mexico Museum of Southwestern Biology as MSB 200–204.

Nine specimens of free-living adult horsehair worms were collected and identified as *Paragordius varius* (Leidy, 1851). A single female worm (223-mm long) was collected on 13 July 2011 from US 70/US 259 bypass at Salt Creek (33.881023°N, 94.826974°W). Eight other females (217–238 mm) were collected 25–26 July 2011 from Mud Creek, 3.4 km W of the junction of US 70 and US 259 in Idabel (33.920240°N, 94.811581°W).

The *P. varius* reported herein represent a new state record for Oklahoma. A summary of previously known records of *P. varius* was provided by Schmidt-Rhaesa et al. (2003). The species has been reported from Arizona, California, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Wisconsin and Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec, Canada (Schmidt-Rhaesa et al., 2003). There are gordiids reported from surveys on macroinvertebrates in Arkansas but identified only to genus as *Paragordius* (Huggins and Harp, 1983; Cochran and Harp, 1990; Chordas et al., 1996).

Although other species of horsehair worms have been reported from several of the states within the Mississippi River watershed (Schmidt-Rhaesa et al., 2003; Harp et al., 2008), *P. varius* has not been reported from Arkansas, Iowa, Louisiana, or Minnesota. We suggest that this apparent distributional void be further examined in an effort to attempt to document this species from those states.

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