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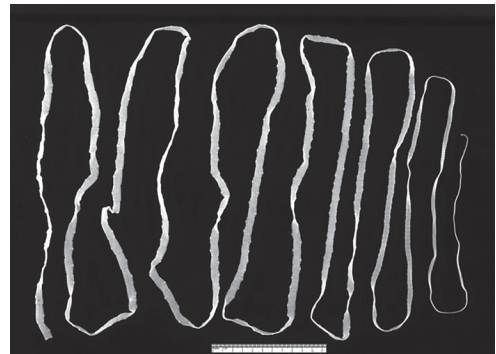
## etymologia

### *Taenia saginata* [te'ne-ə saɪ'e-na'ta]

Ronnie Henry

Johann Goeze is credited with the first correct description of *Taenia* [Latin, “flat band” or “ribbon”] *saginata* [Latin, “fed”], commonly known as the beef tapeworm, in 1782. Historically, *Taenia* tapeworms were believed to have infected humans no more than 10,000 years ago, around the time of domestication of cows and pigs.

However, more recent phylogenetic evidence suggests that ancestors of modern humans, living on the savannahs of Africa and preying on antelope and other bovids, became colonized with *Taenia* >3 million years ago. Parasite definitive hosts switched from large carnivores (probably hyenas) to hominids through their common prey, and this process triggered the evolution of human-infecting species of *Taenia*. Humans later spread these parasites to domestic animals.



Adult *Taenia saginata* tapeworm. Photo CDC/1986.

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