

Size: small  
Preferred site: dorsal colon  
Represents <1% of population

*Craterostomum* sp.

## *Craterostomum* (*Cra.*) *acuticaudatum*



**Figure 28A**  
Head  
a. chitinous supports  
b. gas burner  
c. pair of horns



**Figure 28B**  
Head  
b. gas burner



**Figure 28C**  
Female tail  
d. sharply pointed



**Figure 28D**  
Male tail

*Craterostomum* (*Cra.*) *acuticaudatum* and *Oesophagodontus* (*O.*) *robustus* (page 30) have been reclassified as large strongyles by Lichtenfels (1975) and Lichtenfels et al. (1998), mainly because of the shape of their buccal capsules.

*Craterostomum acuticaudatum* is a very small species and can be identified easily because no other species has a buccal capsule quite like it. The buccal capsule is round, but the top of the rounded cavity looks like **flames from a gas burner** or the **tips of a serrated comb** (these are broad leaves from the internal crown). Also, at the top of the round capsule, which is actually the base of the internal crown, there are **two chitinous supports**, one each extending to the left and right. At the buccal capsule opening are structures that **resemble a pair of horns**.

The **female tail** is very **long and thin** and finally ends in a **sharp point**. The male bursa is symmetrical, and the dorsal ray is of average length.

### **Distinguishing Characteristics:**

- very small species
- unique round buccal capsule, the top of which looks like flames from a gas burner
- two chitinous supports
- structures resembling a pair of horns at the buccal capsule opening