

C15 - Diversity of Monogenoidea from Marine Catfishes (Siluriformes: Ariidae) from the Atlantic Amazon, Brazil

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Current estimates suggest that there are about 250 species of invertebrate metazoan parasite reported to marine catfishes (Ariidae) in the world. Although this number indicates that a wide range of parasites uses these organisms as hosts, we should reflect on the fact that only 30%, from approximately 135 species of ariids, have been examined for parasites. The current knowledge on the diversity of from marine catfish has representatives of major lineages of Metazoa, of which Platyhelminthes represents more than half of this diversity (~54%), with monogenoids representing ~25% of this total (63 species). Considering that 20 species of ariid are reported from Brazilian waters, there is a low representation of monogenoids from this host family, suggesting almost a complete lack of information of this component of our biodiversity. Except for efforts to document our parasitic fauna from marine catfish from south and southeastern Brazilian coast, no information is available from the Atlantic Amazon, which includes the coast of the states of Amapá e Pará that hold about 65% of this diversity (13 species). It is evident that any effort to implement a research program aimed at documenting the diversity of monogenoids from marine catfishes from Brazilian coast will increase the knowledge on our biodiversity. A parasitological survey of the monogenoids from ariids from Atlantic Amazon was carried out during 2011-2013. The branchial arches and oral cavity of 443 specimens of eleven species of Arridae (6,5% *Amphiarius rugispinis*, 15% *Aspistor quadriscutis*, 15% *Bagre bagre*, 3,5% *Cathorops arenatus*, 4% *Cathorops agassizi*, 3,5% *Cathorops spixii*, 3% *Notarius grandicassis*, 18% *Sciades herzbergii*, 11% *Sciades parkeri*, 1,5% *Sciades passany*, 19% *Sciades proops*) were sampled. No monogenoids were found on *Cathorops arenatus*, *Cathorops agassizi*, *Cathorops spixii* and *Sciades parkeri* but gills and/or oral cavity of the other sampled species were parasitized by at least one species of monogenoid. We identified three new species of *Hamatopeduncularia*, and three new species of *Chauhanellus*: *Hamatopeduncularia* n. sp. A from the gills of *Amphiarius quadriscutis* and *Notarius grandicassis*; *Hamatopeduncularia* n. sp. B from the gills of *Amphiarius rugispinis*; *Hamatopeduncularia* n. sp. C from the gills of *Sciades herzbergii*; *Chauhanellus* sp. n. A from the gills of *Sciades herzbergii*; *Chauhanellus* sp. n. B from the gills of *Sciades passany*; and *Chauhanellus* sp. n. C from the gills of *Sciades proops*. With the exception of one species of *Calceostomatidae* from the oral cavity of *Sciades passany*, it was possible to confirm the identity of the other four monogenoid species: *Chauhanellus neotropicalis* Domingues & Fehaluer, 2006 from the gills of *Amphiarius rugispinis*, *Aspistor quadriscutis* and *Notarius grandicassis*; *Chauhanellus boegeri* Domingues & Fehaluer, 2006 from the gills of *Sciades herzbergii*; *Hamatopeduncularia bagre* Hargis, 1955 from the gills of *Bagre bagre*; and *Calceostomella herzbergii* Zambrano, Dezón & León, 2004 from the oral cavity of *Sciades herzbergii*.

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