

Helminth fauna of *Chaunus marinus* (Amphibian: Bufonidae) L. from Belém-PA

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Morphological and ultrastructural studies of helminths are important tools for taxonomical purpose. Up to now 59 species of helminths: 28 species of nematodes, 25 digeneans, 4 cestodes and 1 acanthocephalan¹ were recorded as parasites of *Chaunus marinus* from South and Central America. Amphibians of the family Bufonidae are common in America, Asia and Eurasia. *C. marinus* was introduced in several parts of the world, for biological pest control in crops, acquiring peridomestic habits¹. Characterize morphologically and ultrastructurally and identify specifically the helminths parasites of *Chaunus marinus* from Belém-PA. Twenty two *C. marinus* were examined for helminths, in the period between October of 2007 and March of 2008. Nematodes, digeneans and cestodas collected from different organs were processed for light scanning electron microscopy following Mafra e Lanfredi (1998) and Moraes Neto, Thatcher and Lanfredi, (1998), respectively, and observed under Olympus BX41 light microscope and Jeol JSM 5310 scanning electron microscope (SEM). After detailed morphological and ultrastructural analyses 3 species of nematodes: *Oswaldocruzia belenensis*⁴, *Aplectana* sp. and *Rhabhdia* sp., one cestode of the family Nematotaeniidae and a digenean of the genus *Glypthelmins* were identified. The prevalences were 60% for *O.belenensis*, 60% for *Nematotaeniidae* sp., 45% for *Rhabdias* sp., 75% for *Aplctanas* sp. and 70% for *Glypthelmins* sp. Scanning electron microscopy associated to the classical morphological and morphometric analyses revealed important details of the anatomy of these helminths allowing their identification, characterization and/or redescription, adding taxonomic characters of each studied species parasites of *C. marinus*. The study of the helminths fauna of endemic animals enlarges the biodiversity of this region.

References

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