

Helminth fauna of *Plagioscion squamosissimus* Heckl, 1840 (*Pisces Sciaenidae*) L. of Belém-PA

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Plagioscion squamosissimus Heckel, 1840 is a fish of commercial interest, abundant and of widely distributed in the rivers of the states of the north area of Brazil¹, nevertheless the helminth fauna of this fish is little known. Thatcher (1979) described the species *Brasicystis bennetti*, recovered from the operculum epidermis of this host from Manaus, Amazon State. The present study has the objective to identify and to describe the helminths parasites of *Plagioscion squamosissimus* from the low area of the Guamá River and Guajará bay Belém-PA. In the period of January to July of 2007 20 specimens of *P. squamosissimus* were acquired from Guamá River and Guajará bay fishermen. The fishes were examined for ecto and endoparasites. The internal organs were analyzed, and the parasites collected, fixed in AFA (glacial acetic acid to 2%, formaldehyde to 3% and 95% of ethanol 70° GL). The trematodes, cestodas and acanthocephalans were dehydrated in ethanol series, stained with Carmin, clarified with Methyl Salicilate and the nematodes were dehydrated ethanol series, clarified with Lactofenol of Aman. One part of the samples post-fixed in OsO₄ to 1% with K₂Fe (CN)₆ to 0.8% For scanning electronic microscopy (SEM). The measures were obtained with the aid of illustrations accomplished in the microscope Olympus BX 41 with camera lucida, pictures obtained with microscope MEDILUX with image capture system and SEM in microscope Jeol JSM 5310. The morphological and morphometric analysis of the collected parasites allowed to re-described and to record a new host and geographical registration of the trematode *Brasicystis bennetti* Thatcher, 1979, adding new characters of taxonomic interest for this species, besides the detection of *Anisakidae larvae* of great zoonotic interest, a *Proteocephalidae* (Cestoda) and a *Neoechynorhynchidae* (Acanthocephala), these later still under analysis for species identification. The light and scanning electron microscopy allows the identification of the species parasites adding ultrastructural and morphological data of the species described. The knowledge of the helminth fauna of fishes of commercial interest, as *P. squamosissimus* is very important in order to control parasites of public health interest specially those with potential zoonotic risk, those that can depreciate its value, as well as to enrich the information about the biodiversity of this region.

1. LOUBENS, G. (2003). Biologie de *Plagioscion squamosissimus* (Teleostei: Sciaenidae) dans le bassin du Mamoré (Amazonie bolivienne) Ichthyol. Explor. Freshwaters, Vol. 14(4) p.335-352.
2. THATCHER, VE. *Brasicystis bennetti* n. gen., n. sp. (Trematoda: Didymozoidae) parasita de pescada (Sciaenidae) da Amazônia, Brasil. Act. 1979.

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