

FIRST REPORT OF *LINGUADACTYLOIDES BRINKMANNI* (MONOGENOIDEA: LINGUADACTYLOIDINAE) ON HYBRIDS OF *COLOSSOMA MACROPOMUM X PIARACTUS BRACHYPOMUS* (CHARACIDAE) FROM SOUTH AMERICA

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ABSTRACT

Dias, M. K. R., Tavares-DIAS, M. & Marchiori, N. (2012) First report of *Linguadactyloides brinkmanni* (Monogenoidea: Linguadactyloidea) on hybrids of *Colossoma macropomum x Piaractus brachypomus* (Characidae) from South America. Braz. J. Aquat. Sci. Technol. 16(2):61-64. eISSN 1983-9057. This study presents the first report of infection by *Linguadactyloides brinkmanni* Thatcher & Krytsky, 1983 (Monogenoidea, Dactylogyridae, Linguadactyloidea) on the gills of hybrid tambatinga (*Colossoma macropomum x Piaractus brachypomus*) from fish farms from the city of Macapá, state of Amapá, Brazil. Out of 201 hybrid tambatinga examined, ten were infected by *L. brinkmanni* (prevalence= 4.9%). From these hosts, 21 specimens of *L. brinkmanni* were collected and the mean intensity of infection was 2.1 (1-4 parasites/host). This study expands the distribution of this monogenoidean for a new host.

Key-words: Dactylogyridae, Freshwater fish, Infection, Parasite

The hybrid tambatinga results from the cross-breeding of *Colossoma macropomum* Cuvier, 1818 x *Piaractus brachypomus* Cuvier, 1818. It is a large fish species, reaching up to 80 cm in length and more than 15 kg total weight (Cruz *et al.*, 2006). This hybrid fish is superior in growth and productivity when compared with its parental species (Hashimoto *et al.*, 2012). Due to such zootechnical features the tambatinga has been cultured both in Brazil (Cruz *et al.*, 2006; Lopera-Barrero *et al.*, 2011) and Venezuela (Silva-Acuna & Guevara, 2002). In Brazil, tambatinga is the major hybrid fish of interest to aquaculture (Hashimoto *et al.*, 2012). In 2010, the production of this fish was 4.915,6 tons, 28.5% higher than the one recorded in 2008 (MPA, 2012). However, in Brazilian cultures, the parasitic fauna of hybrid tambatinga has not been yet investigated. Parasites cause problems of diseases and economic loss for the country's fish farmers. This study reports the occurrence of monogenoideans species in farmed hybrid tambatinga in Brazilian Amazon.

From July 2009 to March 2011, two hundred and one specimens of hybrid tambatinga (27.2 ± 3.0 cm and 652.4 ± 16.0 g) were collected from three different fish farms from city of Macapá, state of Amapá, eastern Amazon, (Brazil). Fish were necropsied and their gills were fixed in 5% formalin for posterior analysis. The collected parasites were prepared in Hoyer's

solution for observation of the sclerotized structures and also stained with Gomori trichrome (Eiras *et al.* 2006; Thatcher, 2006), and identified according to Thatcher & Krytsky (1983). Ecological terminology follows Bush *et al.* (1997). Ten specimens of tambatinga (Table 1) had the gills parasitized by *Linguadactyloides brinkmanni* Thatcher & Krytsky, 1983 (Monogenoidea, Dactylogyridae, Linguadactyloidea). The Figure 1 shows all the structures used for the identification of monogenoidean species. This is the first report of *L. brinkmanni* parasitizing tambatinga from the South America.

Linguadactyloides brinkmanni has been reported in Brazil, Cuba and Venezuela (Kohn & Cohen, 1998; Cohen & Kohn, 2008; Cohen & Kohn, 2009), associated with both natural and cultured populations of *C. macropomum* (Thatcher & Krytsky, 1983; Prieto, 1989; Ceccarelli *et al.*, 1990; Aragot & Moreno, 1997; Aragot *et al.*, 2002; Fisher *et al.*, 2003; Varella *et al.*, 2003; Fisher *et al.*, 2003; Cohen & Kohn, 2009; Morais *et al.*, 2009). These results suggest that even though this is a neotropical parasite of characids Serrasalminae species, it also parasites the hybrids resulting from *C. macropomum*. The present study expands the distribution of these monogenoidean by presenting the hybrid tambatinga.

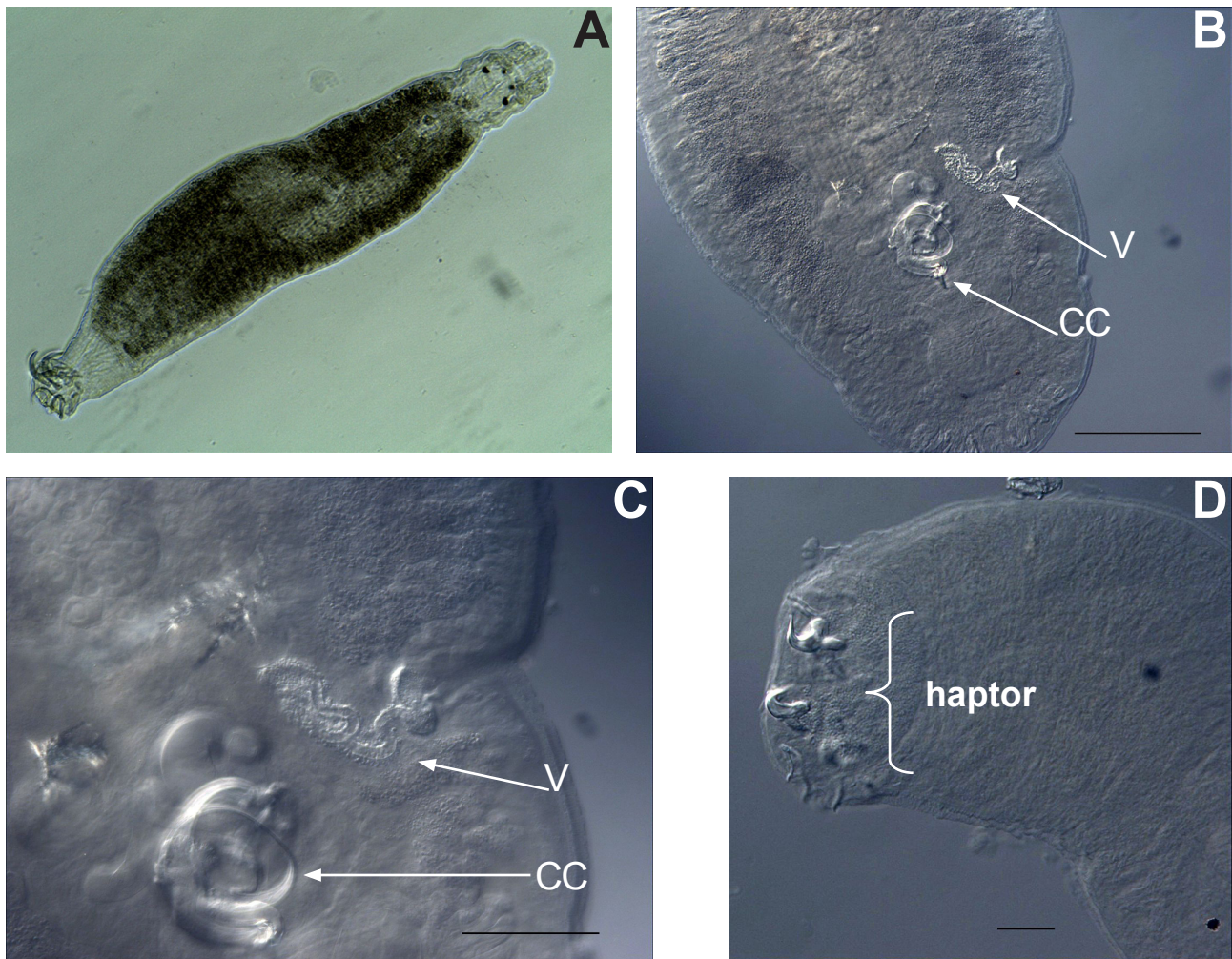


Figure 1 - *Linguadactyloides brinkmanni* (A) on the gills of hybrid tambatinga from fish farms from the state of Amapá, eastern Amazon, Brazil. Bar= 300 μ m. Copulatory complex (CC) and vagina (V) (B-C): Bar= 140 and 130 μ m, respectively. Haptor (D) with anchor and hook: Bar= 45 μ m. Phase contrast technique.

This monogenoidean species is highly pathogenic to its host since its penetration in the gill filaments (possibly reaching the cartilage of the gill filament) causes severe inflammatory reaction and serious gill hyperplasia accompanied by hemorrhage on the sites of attachment (Thatcher & Krytsky, 1983; Aragort *et al.*, 2002; Thatcher, 2006). Thatcher (2006) reported that *L. brinkmanni* ingests epithelium cells as well as red blood cells; hence, in general, it can be observed in red color when examined to microscopy. In fact, in the present study, the presence of red hemoglobin pigment was observed inside *L. brinkmanni*, corroborating with the findings of the aforementioned author. This also suggests that a high level of infection by monogenoidean species can lead to severe fish anemia, which may represent a danger to farmed fish. It can also cause a general stress response with potentially harmful effects to these fish.

Analysis of parasitological indexes showed *L. brinkmanni* prevalence of 4.9% and mean intensity

of infection of 2.2 parasites/host (Table 1). Besides *L. brinkmanni*, it was also registered the presence of *Anacanthorus spathulatus* Kritsky, Thatcher & Kayton, 1979, which dominated the monogenoideans community on the hosts' gills (prevalence=79.1% and mean intensity=126 parasite/host). Centeno *et al.* (2004) also found *A. spathulatus* infesting the hybrid tambatinga cultured in Venezuela (prevalence of 72.6%), but no presence of *L. brinkmanni*. For *C. macropomum* farmed in cages, Morais *et al.* (2009) reported *A. spathulatus* (prevalence = 100% and mean intensity = 57.3), *Mymarothecium boegeri* Cohen & Kohn, 2005 (prevalence = 71.4% and mean intensity = 3.4), *Notozothecium janauachensis* Belmont-Jegu, Domingues & Laterça, 2004 (prevalence = 85.7% and mean intensity = 5.8), and *L. brinkmanni* (prevalence = 14.3% and mean intensity = 1.1), respectively. However, gill-infecting dactylogyrid monogenoideans commonly exhibit a narrow site-specificity. Due the competition among the species by a same niche on

Table 1 - Parasitological indexes for *Linguadactyloides brinkmanni* on the gills of hybrid tambatinga of fish farms from the state of Amapá, eastern Amazon, Brazil.

Parameters	<i>Linguadactyloides brinkmanni</i>
Examined fish	201
Infected fish	22
Prevalence (%)	4.9
Mean intensity	2.1
Range of intensity	1-4
Mean abundance	0.1
Total number of parasites	21

the host's gills, monogenoidean-fish host systems are extremely varied and diverse (Soler-Jiménez & Fajer-Ávila, 2012), and dependents of monogenoideans species.

Variation in infection levels of monogenoideans can be associated to seasonal changes in water temperature, which directly affects the reproduction, survival time and behavior of parasites species. It can be also affected by size and development of the host fish and by ecological and morphological differences between monogenoideans species (Soler-Jiménez & Fajer-Ávila, 2012). In present study, fish 5.0-49.0 cm long were examined, yet *L. brinkmanni* was only found in fish between 21.0 and 45.0 cm of length. This survey was carried out from July 2009 to March 2011 (rainy and dry season). Infection by *L. brinkmanni* occurred in February, March (rainy season), October and November (dry season). Hence, there was no seasonal pattern in infection by this neotropical monogenoidean. Further studies on the infracommunity composition and also competition among the monogenoideans species are necessary for understanding this parasite-host relationship.

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