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Nematode parasites of two anuran species *Rhinella schneideri* (Bufonidae) and *Scinax acuminatus* (Hylidae) from Corrientes, Argentina

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Abstract: The nematological fauna of most anuran species from Corrientes province, north of Argentina; has not been studied. We report for the first time the nematode species found in *Rhinella schneideri* and *Scinax acuminatus*. Forty four amphibians representing two species (*R. schneideri* - six males, three females and two juveniles- and *S. acuminatus* –fifteen males and eighteen females) were collected near the city of Corrientes, between January 2002 and December 2003 and searched for nematodes. *R. schneideri* contained eight species of nematodes (adults: *Rhabdias füelleborni*, *R. elegans*, *Oswaldocruzia proencai*, *Cosmocerca podicipinus*, *C. parva* and *Falcaustra mascula*; larvae: *Porrocaecum* sp. and *Physaloptera* sp.), and *S. acuminatus* contained three (adults: *Cosmocerca parva* and *Oxyascaris caudacutus*; larvae: *Physaloptera* sp.). We present morphology (scanning electron microscope) and metric information, range extensions, and new host records for these nematode species. Rev. Biol. Trop. 56 (4): 2147-2161. Epub 2008 December 12.

Key words: Amphibians, *Rhinella schneideri*, *Scinax acuminatus*, Nematodes, Corrientes, Argentina.

Continuing the study of Argentinean amphibians, we analyzed the parasite fauna of one bufonid species, *Rhinella schneideri* (Werner, 1894), and one hylid species, *Scinax acuminatus* (Cope, 1862).

*Rhinella schneideri* is distributed from the Atlantic coast of Brazil inland through Paraguay to central Bolivia; and southwest to northern and central Argentina and Uruguay, whereas to *S. acuminatus* is distributed in southern Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul (Brazil), Paraguay, Bolivia and northern Argentina (Frost 2007). *Rhinella schneideri*, like the majority species of *Rhinella*, is highly terrestrial and is an active predator with a generalist diet. On the other hand, *S. acuminatus* occurs in forests, shrublands, and grasslands, and is very well adapted to anthropogenic areas; it has a generalist diet that it can be

Lavilla *et al.* (2000) referred to 52 species of anurans for Corrientes province in the north of Argentina; the nematological fauna of most to these species has not been studied. Mordeglia and Digiani (1998) and González and Hamann (2004, 2006a, b, 2007a,b,c) have analyzed nematode parasites of the following species: *Chaunus granulosus major* (Müller & Hellmich, 1936), *C. fernandezae* (Gallardo, 1957), *C. bergi* (Céspedez, 2000) (Bufonidae), *Lysapsus limellum* Cope, 1862 (Hylidae), *Pseudopaludicola falcipes* (Hensel, 1867) (Leiuperidae), and, *Leptodactylus bufofius* Boulenger, 1894 (Leptodactylidae). Nematodes of larval amphibians have been reported by González and Hamann (2005) who found one pharyngodonid species, *Gyrinicola chabaudi* Araujo & Artigas, 1982 in tadpoles of the hylid *Scinax nasicus* (Cope, 1862).
considered intermediate between a sit-and-wait and an actively foraging predator (Duré 2004).

The purpose of this study is to report for the first time nematodes harboured by *R. schneideri* and *S. acuminatus*. We describe the nematodes found in both species and present new morphological and metric data.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS**

Samples of *R. schneideri* (N = 11) and *S. acuminatus* (N = 33) were collected near the city of Corrientes, Province of Corrientes in Argentina (27°28'S - 58°50'W), between January 2002 and December 2003. Six males (snout-vent length - SVL) = 42.58 mm ±31.82 SD; min.–max. = 10.1-86.6 and 26.0 g ±37.0 SD; min.–max. = 0.19-86.6 of weight), three females (SVL = 81.8 mm ±77.8 SD; min.–max. = 23.0-170.0, and 23.4 g ±24.5 SD; min.–max. = 1.8-50.0 of weight), and two juvenile (SVL = 15.75 mm ±1.06 SD; min.–max. = 23.0-170.0, and 23.4 g ±24.5 SD; min.–max. = 1.8-50.0 of weight), of *R. schneideri* were collected. Fifteen males (snout-vent length - SVL) = 33.64 mm ±5.42 SD; min.–max. = 25.5-43.0 and 3.87 g ±1.48 SD; min.–max. = 1.24-6.29 of weight) and eighteen females (snout-vent length - SVL) = 29.44 mm±4.65 SD; min.–max. = 21.0-41.0 and 3.06 g±1.99 SD; min.–max. = 0.74–9.19 of weight) of *S. acuminatus* were collected in same area.

Amphibians were transported live to the laboratory, killed in a chloroform (CHCL 3) solution; and their snout-vent length (SvL) and body weight were recorded. At necropsy, hosts were sexed and the alimentary canal, lungs, liver, kidneys, urinary bladder, musculature and integument examined for parasites by dissection. Nematodes were observed in vivo, counted and killed in hot distilled water and preserved in 70% ethyl alcohol, cleared in glycerine or lactophenol and examined as temporary mounts. Some specimens were studied by scanning electron microscopy (SEM); these specimens were dehydrated in ethanol series, dried using the critical point technique, coated with gold, and examined with a JSM-5800 scanning electron microscope. Measurements are given in micrometers (µm) unless otherwise stated, as the mean ± SD followed by range in parentheses. Prevalence, mean intensity and mean abundance were calculated according to Bush *et al.* (1997). Voucher specimens of all nematode species were deposited in the Helminthological Collection of the Centro de Ecología Aplicada del Litoral (CECOAL), Corrientes, Argentina. Amphibians were deposited in the Herpetological Collection of CECOAL (S. acuminatus: Cecoal 2405; R. schneideri: Cecoal 2663)

**RESULTS**

A total of 153 nematodes was collected from 44 anurans examined. In *R. schneideri*, we found eight species of nematodes from six families: Rhabdiasidae: *Rhabdias füelleborni* Travassos, 1926 and *Rhabdias elegans* Gutiérrez, 1945; Molinidae: *Oswaldocruzia proencai* Ben Slimane & Durette-Desset, 1995; Cosmocercidae: *Cosmocerca podicipinus* Baker & Vaucher, 1984 and *Cosmocerca parva* Travassos, 1926; Kathaniidae: *Falcaustra mascula* (Rudolphi, 1819) Freitas & Lent, 1941; Ascarididae: *Porrocaecum* sp. (Larvae) and Physalopteridae: *Physaloptera* sp. (Larvae). In *S. acuminatus*, we found three species of nematodes from two families: Cosmocercidae: *Cosmocerca parva* and *Oxyascaris caudacutus* Freitas, 1958) Baker & Vaucher, 1984, and, Physalopteridae: *Physaloptera* sp. (Larvae). Prevalence, number of parasites, mean intensity, mean abundance and site of infection for each one of these nematodes in each host appear in Table 1.

**Family Rhabdiasidae Railliet, 1915**

**Genus Rhabdias Stiles & Hassall, 1905**

*Rhabdias füelleborni* Travassos, 1926

(Fig. 1A)

**Description:** Based on 14 gravid specimens. Body of parthenogenetic female 10.18±1.12 mm (8.55-12.0 mm) x 408.2±33.7 (350-450). Outer layers of body cuticle inflated.
Oral opening small, almost circular, surrounded by six small lips. Intestine filled with brown or black contents. Clavicular esophagus 560.7±66.5 (460-650) x 63.1±7.5 (50-75). Nerve ring 237.4±46.1 (186-350) from anterior extremity. Vulva 4.88±0.32 mm (4.42-5.46 mm) from anterior end of body; ovaries straight, lying along intestine. Uteri wide, filled with numerous eggs; egg shell thin, smooth, hyaline; larvate eggs placed near to the vagina 114.6±19.6 (97-160) x 58.0±9.3 (48-80) wide. Tail conical, 358.3±69.7 (250-450) in length.

**Remarks:** *Rhabdias* Stiles and Hassall, 1905 is a genus of nematode parasites widely distributed in ranids and bufonids but is infrequently found in salamanders, snakes and lizards (Baker 1987, Bursey et al. 2003, Martinez-Salazar and León-Régagnon 2006). In South American *Rhabdias füelleborni* was found in Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay in the following hosts: *Bufo marinus, B. arenarum, B. ictericus, B. paracnemis* (Bufonidae) and *Leptodactylus pentadactylus* and *Eleutherodactylus guentheri* (Leptodactylidae) (Travassos 1926, Fahel 1952, Kloss 1971, 1974, Masi Pallares and Maciel 1974, Rodrigues et al. 1982, Vicente et al. 1990, Luque et al. 2005, Martins and Fabio 2005). This is the first report of *R. füelleborni* in an amphibian from Argentina. The metric and morphologic data of specimens studied here agree with those of Travassos (1926).

**Rhabdias elegans** Gutierrez, 1945

**Description:** Based on 1 gravid specimen. Body of parthenogenetic female 6.2 mm x 400 mm. Cuticle swollen, with irregular folds. Head end rounded. Simple mouth, not surrounded by distinguishable lips. Esophagus, 390 x 50. Vulva 3.5 mm from anterior end of body. Uteri with numerous eggs; larvated eggs 88 x 53 wide. Tail conical 220 in length.

**Remarks:** In Argentina, this species was found in *B. arenarum* (Bufonidae) from the province of Buenos Aires (Gutierrez 1945) and from the province of Salta (Sueldo and Ramirez 1976), *Bufo marinus* (Bufonidae) from the province of Santa Fe (Gutierrez 1945) and from the province of Cordoba (Gutierrez 1947).
Fig. 1. Nematode parasites of *Rhinella schneideri* and *Scinax acuminatus* from Corrientes, Argentina. A. *Rhabdias fuelleborni*, body anterior end. B. *Cosmocerca parva*, male, body posterior end, ventral view. C. detail of plectane. D. detail of adanal papillae, ventro-lateral view. (A-D collected from *R. schneideri*).
in *Leptodactylus buforius* (Leptodactylidae) from the province of Corrientes (González and Hamann 2006b), in *Bufo rufus* from Brazil, in *B. ictericus* from Paraguay and Brazil, and in *B. arenarum* (Bufonidae) from Uruguay (Kloss 1971, 1974, Baker 1987, Vicente et al. 1990, Luque et al. 2005).

Compared with specimens studied by Gutiérrez (1945) the female found in *R. schneideri* has eggs with a smaller length (Gutiérrez 1945: 91-112 µm); other characters (e.g., body size and esophagus length) are similar.

**Family Molineidae**  
Durette-Desset & Chabaud, 1977  
**Genus Oswaldocruzia** Travassos, 1917  
Oswaldocruzia proencai  
Ben Slimane & Durette-Desset, 1995

**Description:** Based on 1 male specimen. Body 10.5 mm x 127.5, with maximum width at level of midbody. Claviform esophagus 540 length. Nerve ring 184 from anterior extremity. Excretory pore 282 from anterior extremity. Caudal bursa: rays 8 arising on root of the dorsal ray, and overlapped with rays 6 in half of its length only. Dorsal ray conical, rising from common base with ribs 8, tapering to pointed tip. Spicules 165.6 in length, distal third divided into 3 branches: blade, shoe and fork. Ribs 4 more short than ribs 5. Branches of the spicule with equivalent length.

**Remarks:** Ben Slimane et al. (1996) analyzed the morphology of the caudal bursa and identified 72 species of *Oswaldocruzia*. The species *O. proencai* is included within the groupe possessing type II bursa. The neotropical *Oswaldocruzia* have spicula divided in three main branches: blade, shoe and fork and the division of the fork always occurs before the distal third of its length (in holartic species occurs beyond the distal third). Gubernaculum is absent. On the other hand, Ben Slimane and Durette-Desset (1995) proposed the species *O. proencai* for the specimens collected in the amphibians *Bufo paracnemis*, *Leptodactylus ocellatus* and *L. buforius* from Paraguay and that was described by Lent et al. (1946) like *O. mazzai* Travassos, 1935. This is the first report of *O. proencai* in an amphibian from Argentina.

**Family Cosmocercidae Travassos, 1925**  
**Genus Cosmocerca** Diesing, 1861  
Cosmocerca podicipinus  
Baker & Vaucher, 1984

The caudal portion of the males of this species was extensively detailed for González and Hamann (2004), those that provided new morphologic information related to the structure of the plectanas and the adanal papillae. This species is readily distinguished from other species by the fusion of the underlying sclerotized plectane supports between the plectanes (Baker and Vaucher 1984). The Table 2 shows the metric characters of the males and females of *C. podicipinus* found in *R. schneideri*.

**Cosmocerca parva**  
Travassos, 1925 (Fig. 1B, C, D)

This species is distinguished from the *Cosmocerca podicipinus* in the morphology of the plectanes; in *C. parva* union between the plectanas of each row does not exist, whereas in *C. podicipinus* the plectanes on each side of body are fused by underlying sclerotized supports; in addition, the lateral alae in this species are very marked.

The metric characters of the males and females of these nematodes found in *R. schneideri* and *S. acuminatus* are present in Table 2.

**Remarks:** In South America, the genus *Cosmocerca* is widely distributed in amphibians and reptiles (Baker 1987).

In Paraguay, *C. podicipinus* was found in *Leptodactylus podicipinus*, *L. fiscus*, *L. elenae* and *L. chaquensis* (Leptodactylidae) (Baker and Vaucher 1984); in Colombia was found by Goldberg and Bursey (2003) in *Atelopus spurrelli* (Bufonidae) and *Dendrobates histrionicus* (Dendrobatidae); in Peru was found in *Bufo typhonius* (Bufonidae), *Colostethus*
TABLE 2
Morphology characteristics of males and females of *Cosmocerca parva* and *C. podicipinus* in *Rhinella schneideri* and *Scinax acuminatus* in Corrientes, Argentina

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><em>R. schneideri</em> C. podicipinus</th>
<th><em>R. schneideri</em> C. parva</th>
<th><em>S. acuminatus</em> C. parva</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Males n = 2</td>
<td>Females n = 3</td>
<td>Males n = 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total length</td>
<td>2.33 ± 0.01mm (2.32 – 2.34)</td>
<td>4.80 ± 0.22mm (3.29 – 7.35)</td>
<td>2.02 ± 0.35mm (1.7 – 2.53)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>235.0 ± 7.0 (230 – 240)</td>
<td>240.0 ± 55.6 (190 – 300)</td>
<td>235.0 ± 27.9 (200 – 260)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of pharynx</td>
<td>26.3 ± 1.8 (25 – 27)</td>
<td>34.5 ± 4.5 (30 – 39)</td>
<td>27.9 ± 2.9 (23 – 30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width of pharynx</td>
<td>20.3 ± 0.5 (20 – 21)</td>
<td>37.6 ± 6.9 (30 – 44)</td>
<td>20.2 ± 1.6 (19 – 23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of muscular esophagus</td>
<td>205.2 ± 13.7 (195 – 215)</td>
<td>328.6 ± 71.0 (282 – 410)</td>
<td>227.1 ± 17.4 (207 – 250)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width of muscular esophagus</td>
<td>22.9 ± 3.0 (21 – 25)</td>
<td>40.2 ± 10.3 (30 – 51)</td>
<td>27.7 ± 2.7 (25 – 31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of bulb</td>
<td>50.3 ± 0.4 (50 – 51)</td>
<td>82.5 ± 8.6 (75 – 92)</td>
<td>70.6 ± 5.4 (67 – 80)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width of bulb</td>
<td>61.5 ± 5.6 (57 – 65)</td>
<td>108.2 ± 10.2 (101 – 120)</td>
<td>68.7 ± 6.5 (60 – 78)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nerve ring from anterior end</td>
<td>162.5 ± 67.1 (115 – 210)</td>
<td>180.6 ± 25.7 (162 – 210)</td>
<td>147.0 ± 10.6 (138 – 158)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excretory pore from anterior end</td>
<td>265.1 ± 119.0 (182 – 350)</td>
<td>251.6 ± 42.5 (210 – 295)</td>
<td>217.6 ± 20.8 (200 – 252)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anus from posterior end</td>
<td>127.5 ± 17.7 (115 – 140)</td>
<td>480.0 ± 191.6 (350 – 700)</td>
<td>145.9 ± 8.0 (135 – 155)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gobernaculum</td>
<td>112.0 ± 14.1 (102 – 122)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>73.8 ± 9.7 (60 – 85)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spicules</td>
<td>111.5 ± 4.9 (108 – 115)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>72.6 ± 4.4 (70 – 80)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of plectanes</td>
<td>5 pairs</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4 – 5 pairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adanal papillae</td>
<td>3 pairs + 1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2 - 4 pairs + 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulva from anterior end</td>
<td>- 2.56 ± 0.96mm (1.7 – 3.6)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2.5 ± 0.51mm (1.95 – 3.82)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of eggs</td>
<td>- 100.4 ± 8.1 (92 – 108)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>110.0 ± 3.7 (103 – 116)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width of eggs</td>
<td>- 62.9 ± 11.3 (55 – 76)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>71.0 ± 4.0 (66 – 78)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cosmocerca parva was found in Leptodactylus mystaceus, L. caliginosus, L. fuscus, L. ocellatus, Adenomera marmorata, Physalaemus signiferus and P. soaresi (Leptodactylidae) and Olylogon fuscovaria (Hylidae) from Brazil (Silva 1954, Fabio 1982); in Leptodactylus sp., L. chaquensis, L. elenae (Leptodactylidae) and Olylogon fuscovaria (Hylidae) from Paraguay (Masi Pallares and Maciel 1974, Baker and Vaucher 1984); in Bufo glaberrimus, B. marinus and B. typhonus (Bufonidae), Epipedobates pictus (Dendrobatidae), Hyla fasciata, Phyllomedusa atelopoides, Scarthyla ostiodactyla, Scinax garbei, S. icterica (Hylidae), Edalorhina perezi, Eleutherodactylus fenestratus, E. peruvianus, E. toftae, Leptodactylus leptodactyloides, L. mystaceus (Leptodactylidae), Elachistocleis ovalis and Hamptophryne boliviana (Microhylidae) from Peru (Bursey et al. 2001). Finally, in Argentina, it was found in bufonids Chaunus granulosus major, C. fernandezae and C. bergi and, in leptodactylids Leptodactylus bufonius, L. chaquensis and L. latinasus (Mordeglia and Digiani 1998, González and Hamann 2006a,b, González and Hamann 2007a, b, Hamann et al. 2006a, b).

The general metric characteristics of the specimens of Cosmocerca podicipinus corresponds to others nematodes of the same species analyzed from others hosts of Corrientes, Argentina. Nevertheless, the body size of the females of this study is greater (3.0-7.0 mm) than the found ones in other hosts; for example, the maximum body size of females of C. podicipinus from P. falcipes: 6.0 mm (González and Hamann, 2004); from C. fernandezae: 4.3 mm; from C. bergi: 6.9 mm (González and Hamann, 2007a).

The other metric characters, in both males and females, are similar to those found by the authors mentioned for this geographic region. The length of spicule of male collected from S. acuminatus is longer than found in R. schneideri.

With respect to Cosmocerca parva, we found that the female specimens collected from R. schneideri are longer than found in S. acuminatus and the other specimens collected from bufonids of the same area, i.e., from Chaunus granulosus major: 5.1 mm (González and Hamann 2006a); C. fernandezae: 6.7 mm and C. bergi: 5.6 mm (González and Hamann 2007a).

The males of C. parva can have from 5 to 7 pairs of plectanes (Baker and Vaucher 1984). In the present study, the most males of C. parva analyzed from R. schneideri had 5 pairs of plectanes, although some of them had 4 pairs. Each plectane was formed by one interior complete rosette of 12-15 punctations and one exterior complete rosette of 12-15 punctations, and, a relatively inconspicuous underlying sclerotized support which is not fused to other plectanes. Previously reports of plectanes with scanning electron microscopy realized by Mordeglia and Digiani (1998) showed 12-16 punctations in each rosette of these structures. The only male of C. parva found in S. acuminatus presented 6 pairs of plectanes.

The numbers of pairs of adanal papillae varied between 2 and 4 pairs in specimens from R. schneideri but were 3 pairs only in male collected from S. acuminatus. González and Hamann (2006a, 2007a) found 2-4 pairs of adanal papillae in males of C. parva from C. granulosus major and C. fernandezae; and 3 pairs only in males from C. bergi. We observed the unpaired little papilla on the anterior lip of anus in males of C. parva in both hosts of this study.

Both, R. schneideri and S. acuminata, represent new host records for C. podicipinus and C. parva.

Genus *Oxyascaris* Travassos, 1920  
*Oxyascaris caudacutus* (Freitas, 1958)  
Baker & Vaucher, 1984 (Fig. 2 A-G)

**Description:** Nematodes with marked dimorphism in size; mature females more than twice as large as male. Oral opening triangular, three small lips present. Four large outer papillae and six minute inner labial papillae in the cephalic extremity. Lateral alae extending from just anterior to nerve ring in both sexes to the preanal region in males and to near midbody in
females. Markedly wide and thick at anterior end and tapering rapidly posteriorly. Somatic papillae present, in two subventral and two subdorsal rows.

**Males:** based on 3 specimens. Body 3.4±0.65 mm (2.65-3.9 mm) x 173.33±32.14 (150-210). Pharynx 31.5±7.46 (23-37) x 22.56±1.69 (20.7-24). Esophagus divided in two portions: corpus 290±4.60 (253-345), and bulb 72.0±4.24 (69-75) x 68.26±9.61 (57.5-76). Nerve ring 200.0±70.71 (150-250) from anterior extremity. Excretory pore 370.6±25.32 (342-390) from anterior extremity. Tail conical, 208.0±9.16 (198-216) long, with four pairs of subventral and two pairs of subdorsal papillae; one unpaired papilla on anterior lip of cloaca, and three pairs of subventral papillae variable in position. Spicules sharply pointed distally, 144.0±29.4 (110-161) long. Gubernaculum weakly sclerotized, 37.25±3.88 (34.5-40) long.

**Females:** based on 7 gravid specimens. Body 12.0±2.07 mm (9.0-16.0 mm) x 272.0±58.93 (165-375) with maximum width at level of vulva. Pharynx 45.9±6.71 (34.5-57.5) x 42.04±5.83 (34.5-52.9). Esophagus divided in two portions: corpus 439.0±34.47 (384-498) x 46.84±7.91 (34.5-57.5), and bulb 91.15±9.78 (78.2-110) x 89.03 ±8.91 (75.9-100). Nerve ring 415.5±50.04 (342-450) from anterior extremity. Excretory pore 1.09±0.22 mm (0.93-1.25 mm) from anterior extremity. Vulva 4.0±0.59 (3.15-4.8) from anterior extremity. Tail robust, tapering abruptly to distal spike, 0.90±0.11 mm (0.67-1.05 mm) long. Uteri in mature females containing many eggs and free larvae. Eggs oval, thin-walled, 84.48±10.91 (69-103.5) x 52.28±5.75 (46-62.140), often contains fully developed larvae.

**Remarks:** This species was originally described from *Hyla nasica* (identification of host not definitive according to Freitas 1958), of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Then, it was found in *Leptodactylus fuscus* and *L. mystacinus* (Leptodactylidae) from Brazil, too (Fabio 1982) and, in *Oloolygon fuscovaria* (Hylidae) from Paraguay (Baker and Vaucher 1985). This is the first report of this species for Argentinean amphibians.

The general morphology of this specimens correspond with others descriptions (Freitas 1958, Baker and Vaucher 1985) but we added with this study some metric characters, e,i., the range of body size of male specimens: of these study are greater than of those of the original description, and of the other host (Freitas 1958: 2.78-3.62 mm; Baker and Vaucher 1985: 3.50-3.70 mm; present study: 2.65-3.90 mm); in these specimens they have been spicules of greater length than in the specimens of previous studies (Freitas 1958: 122-134 µm; Baker and Vaucher 1985: 148-155 µm; present study: 110-161 µm); finally, with respect to gubernaculum, Freitas (1958) does not provide any measurement of this masculine genital structure; on the other hand, Baker and Vaucher (1985) found in this structure a length between 36 and 40 µm. The lateral alae got to measure 35 µm in specimens studied by Baker and Vaucher (1985), whereas in the present study they reached 39 µm.

**Family Kathlaniidae Lane, 1914**

**Genus Falcaustra** Lane, 1915

*Falcaustra mascula* (Rudolphi, 1819) Freitas & Lent, 1941 (Fig. 3 A-C)

**Description:** Based on 2 females specimens. Body 10.75±1.9mm (9.37-12.12 mm) x 40±7.07 (400-410). Cuticle with fine longitudinal striations. Pharynx 75.0±7.07 (70-80) x 71.0±1.41 (70-72). Esophagus (with isthmus) 1.38±0.11 mm (1.37-1.4 mm) x 70.8±5.86 (66.7-75); isthmus 135.0±21.21 (120-150) x 105.0±7.07 (100-110); bulb 163.5±2.12 (162-165) x 193.0±9.89 (186-200). Nerve ring 345.0±7.07 (340-350) from anterior end of body. Excretory pore 1.09±0.22 mm (0.93-1.25 mm) from anterior extremity. Vulva 7.70±1.73 mm (6.47-8.92) from anterior end of body. Tail 355.0±7.07 (350-360) in length. The studied females did not have eggs.

**Remarks:** In South America, *Falcaustra mascula* was found in *Leptodactylus ocellatus*, *L. pentadactylus*, *L. caliginosus*, *L.

The measurements of these specimens are something greater than those found by Freitas and Lent (1941) and by Vicente and dos Santos (1976); for example, the total length of body (Freitas and Lent 1941: 8.66-9.78 mm; Vicente

Fig. 3. Nematodes parasites of Rhinella schneideri and Scinax acuminatus from Corrientes, Argentina. A. Falcustra mascula, female, detail of cephalic end. B. body anterior end, lateral view. C. body posterior end.
and dos Santos 1976: 7.23 mm; present study: 9.37-12.12 mm), the length of excretory pore to anterior end (Freitas and Lent 1941: 1.07-1.20 mm; Vicente and dos Santos 1976: 1.07 mm; present study: 0.93-1.25 mm) and the distance of vulva to the anterior end (Vicente and dos Santos 1976: 5.67 mm; present study: 6.47-8.92 mm).

This is the first record of *F. mascula* in an amphibian from Argentina.

**Family Ascarididae Baird, 1853**

**Genus Porrocaecum Raillet & Henry, 1912**

**Porrocaecum sp. (Larvae)**

**Description:** Based on 1 specimen. Body whitish, 9.3 mm x 195.0. Cuticle almost smooth or with very fine transverse striations. Cephalic end rounded, bearing small ventral larval tooth. Lips with dentigerous ridges. Esophagus narrow, 875.0 long. Nerve ring encircling esophagus, 186.3 from anterior extremity. Excretory pore 222.0 from anterior end of body. ventriculus elongate 130 x 90; caecum 550 x 37.5. Rectum a short hyaline tube; small rectal glands present. Anus 126.5 from posterior extremity.

**Remarks:** In South America, *Porrocaecum* larvae were recorded in *Pipa pipa* (Pipidae) from Peru (Bursey et al. 2001) and in *L. chaquensis* (Leptodactylidae) from Argentina (Hamann et al. 2006b). These larvae undoubtedly belong to a *Porrocaecum* species parasitizing predatory birds, with amphibians and reptiles serving as paratenic hosts.

**Family Physalopteridae Leiper, 1908**

**Genus Physaloptera Rudolphi, 1819**

**Physaloptera sp. (Larvae)**

**Description:** (corresponding measurements of larvae obtained in *R. schneideri* are given within brackets). Larval body whitish, with transversely annulated cuticle. Terminus of head with two lateral lips and cephalic collar formed by inflated cuticle. On either lip a sclerotized support and one terminal tooth present at upper margin. Each lip bearing two cephalic papillae and one amph. Total length 3.59±0.65 mm (2.3-4.4) [5.9mm] x 163.3±22.7. (120-200) [280.0]. Muscular esophagus 176.0±18.4 (138-205) [275.0] x 32.7±3.5 (28-38) [45.0] and glandular esophagus 1.1±0.13mm (0.8-1.2) [1.75mm] x 59.3±7.0(51-70) [69.0]. Nerve ring and excretory pore from anterior end 149.0±17.8 (122-175) [275.0] and 161.1±12.0 (138-174) [360.0], respectively. Tail conical. Anus from posterior end 120.7±9.4 (110-135) [120.0].

**Remarks:** Larvae of this genus were found in the following South American amphibians: *Hyla faber* (Hylidae), *Bufo marinus* (Bufonidae), *Adenomera marmorata*, *Leptodactylus caliginosus*, *L. mystaceus*, *Physalaemus signiferus*, *P. soaresi* and *Proceratophrys appendiculata* (Leptodactylidae), from Brazil (Boquimpani-Freitas et al. 2001, Vicente et al. 1990); in *Bufo marinus* and *B. typhonius* (Bufonidae), in *Colostethus marchesianus* (Dendrobatidae), in *Hyla boans*, *H. fasciata*, *H. granosa*, *H. leali*, *H. leucophyllata*, *H. marmorata*, *Osteocephalus taurinus*, *Phrynohyas coriacea*, *P. venulosa*, *Phyllomedusa tomopterna*, *Scinax ictericus* and *S. ruba* (Hylidae), in *Edalorhina per- ezi*, *Eleutherodactylus cruralis*, *E. fenestratus*, *Leptodactylus bolivianus*, *L. leptodactyloides*, *L. mystaceus*, *L. pentadactylus*, *L. rhodonotus* and *Lithodytes lineatus* (Leptodactylidae), in *Ctenophryne geayi* and *Hamptophryne bolivi-iana* (Microhylidae) and *Pseudis paradoxa* (Pseudidae) from Peru (Bursey et al. 2001). In Argentina, it was found by Gutiérrez et al. (2005) in *Physalaemus biligonigerus* and by González and Hamann (2006a, b, 2007a) in *Leptodactylus bufonius* (Leptodactylidae) and in *Chaunus granulosus major* and in *C. fernandezae* (Bufonidae). *Rhinella schneideri* and *Scinax acuminatus* represent two new records for this nematode.

The measures of the larvae found in the bufonid were, in general, greater than the found ones in the hilids. These measurements
correspond to the larvae found in other bufonids studied in the same area (González and Hamann 2006a).

**DISCUSSION**

Four of nine species of nematodes found in amphibians of this study were new records for Argentina: *Rhabdias füelleborni*, *Oswaldocruzia proencai*, *Falcaustra mascula* and *Oxyascaris caudacutus*, whereas *Rhabdias elegans*, *Cosmocerca parva*, *C. podicipinus*, *Porrocaecum* sp. and *Physaloptera* sp, have previously been reported from Argentinean amphibians. All these nematodes have been found in hylids and bufonids of South America, except *Porrocaecum* sp. that until now had been found in leptodactylids and pipids amphibians only from Argentina (Hamann *et al*. 2006a, 2007); lowest species richness of nematodes in Argentinean bufonids were two species for *S. acuminatus* (González and Hamann 2006a), two in *S. garbei* and *S. ruba*, and three species in *S. icterica* (Bursey *et al*. 2001); in Brazil, Azevedo-Ramos *et al*. (1998) found two species of nematodes in *S. trilineata* and in *S. nebulosa*, and, and Goldberg *et al*. (2007) found two species in *S. fuscomarginatus*.

In agreement with Bursey *et al*. (2001), we found different nematode species between *R. schneideri* (terrestrial habitat), and *S. acuminatus* (mostly arboreal habitat), suggesting host behaviour and parasites biology are an important factor in the infection of parasites, but, in contraposition of these authors we found the most important intestinal nematodes in terrestrial amphibia were those that infect host by skin penetration (i.e., *Rhabdias* spp. and *Cosmocerca* spp.) this result could be explained by the type of habitat in our studies.

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**RESUMEN**

Cuarenta y cuatro anfibios pertenecientes a dos especies (*Rhinella schneideri* –seis machos, tres hembras y dos juveniles- y *Scinax acuminatus* –quince machos y dieciocho hembras) fueron recolectados para extraer nemátodos en las proximidades de la ciudad de Corrientes, provincia de Corrientes en Argentina, entre enero 2002 y diciembre 2003. *Rhinella schneideri* estuvo parasitada por ocho especies de nemátodos (adultos: *Rhabdias füelleborni*, *R. elegans*, *Oswaldocruzia proencai*, *Cosmocerca podicipinus*, *C. parva* y *Falcaustra mascula*; larvas: *Porrocaecum* sp. y *Physaloptera* sp.), y *S. acuminatus* presentó tres especies de nemátodos (adultos: *Cosmocerca parva* y *Oxyascaris caudacutus*; larva: *Physaloptera* sp.). Para todas estas especies de nemátodos se presentan datos morfológicos y métricos, y para algunas sus nuevos ámbitos y caracteres, así como también los detalles obtenidos mediante el microscopio electrónico de barrido. Éste es el primer informe de nemátodos parásitos para los citados anfibios de Corrientes, Argentina.

**Palabras clave**: anfibios, *Rhinella schneideri*, *Scinax acuminatus*, nemátodos parásitos, Corrientes, Argentina.
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INTERNET REFERENCE