



Revista Brasileira de Parasitologia  
Veterinária

ISSN: 0103-846X

zacariascbpv@fcav.unesp.br

Colégio Brasileiro de Parasitologia  
Veterinária  
Brasil

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Revista Brasileira de Parasitologia Veterinária, vol. 17, núm. 3, julio-septiembre, 2008, pp.  
167-170

Colégio Brasileiro de Parasitologia Veterinária  
Jaboticabal, Brasil

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## NEW DATA ON SPECIES OF *Demidospermus* (DACTYLOGYRIDAE: MONOGENEA) PARASITIZING FISHES FROM THE RESERVOIR OF THE ITAIPU HYDROELECTRIC POWER STATION, PARANA STATE, BRAZIL, WITH NEW SYNONYMIES

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**ABSTRACT:-** COHEN, S.C.; KOHN, A. New Data on Species of *Demidospermus* (Dactylogyridae: Monogenea) Parasitizing Fishes from the Reservoir of the Itaipu Hydroelectric Power Station, Parana State, Brazil, With New Synonymies. [Novos dados sobre *Demidospermus* (Dactylogyridae: Monogenea) parasitas de peixes do reservatório da Usina Hidrelétrica de Itaipú, Estado do Paraná, Brasil, com novas sinonimias]. *Revista Brasileira de Parasitologia Veterinária*, v. 17, n. 3, p.167-170, 2008. Laboratório de Helminthos Parasitos de Peixes, Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, FIOCRUZ, Av. Brasil, 4365, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, 21045-900, Brazil. E-mail: annakohn@ioc.fiocruz.br

Eight known species of *Demidospermus* (Dactylogyridae, Monogenea) were collected from siluriform fishes from reservoir of the Itaipu Hydroelectric Power Station, Paraná, Brazil. Four of them are recorded for the first time in Brazil, enlarging their geographical distribution: *Demidospermus armostus*, *Demidospermus anus*, *Demidospermus bidiverticulatum* and *Demidospermus valenciennesi*. *Demidospermus labrosi* is synonymized with *Demidospermus cornicinus* and *Demidospermus mandi* with *Demidospermus leptosynophallus* and reported from two new hosts. *Demidospermus paravalenciennesi* and *Demidospermus uncusvalidus* were also collected.

**KEY WORDS:** *Demidospermus*, Monogenea, Siluriform fishes, Brazil, Itaipu Hydroelectric Power Station.

### RESUMO

Oito espécies de *Demidospermus* (Dactylogyridae, Monogenea) foram coletadas de peixes Siluriformes do reservatório da Usina Hidrelétrica de Itaipú, Paraná, Brasil. Quatro dessas são registradas pela primeira vez no Brasil, aumentando sua distribuição geográfica: *Demidospermus armostus*, *Demidospermus anus*, *Demidospermus bidiverticulatum* e *Demidospermus valenciennesi*. *Demidospermus labrosi* é considerada sinônima de *Demidospermus cornicinus* e *Demidospermus mandi* sinônima de *Demidospermus leptosynophallus* e registradas em dois novos hospedeiros. Foram também coletados exemplares de *Demidospermus paravalenciennesi* e *Demidospermus uncusvalidus*.

**PALAVRAS-CHAVE:** *Demidospermus*, Monogenea, Siluriformes, Brasil, Usina Hidrelétrica de Itaipú.

Species of *Demidospermus* have been described from siluriform hosts from Argentina and more recently, from Brazil, indicating the specificity of the genus with the fish order. In the present paper, we found eight species of *Demidospermus* parasitizing different host genera belonging to the families Pimelodidae, Heptapteridae, Loricariidae and Auchenipteridae.

The genus *Demidospermus* is characterized by having tandem gonads; counterclock-wise coiled male copulatory organ; sinistral vaginal aperture; U, W or V shaped haptor bars; subspherical eye granules and a sheathlike accessory piece serving as a guide for the MCO (KRITSKY; GUTIÉRREZ, 1998). Up to now, fourteen species of the genus were described from eight different species of siluriform fishes.

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The order Siluriformes is a large, diverse order of fish, collectively known as catfish. Most of them are omnivores and unlike most freshwater fishes, many are nocturnal and depend mainly on senses other than sight, such as tactile and chemosensitive barbels. They are preadapted to life in caves, aquifers and deep river channels (LUNDBERG; FRIEL, 2003). Fishes belonging to this order present a high index of parasitism, represented by the different groups of helminths (KOHN et al., 2004).

Specimens of the hosts, *Iheringichthys labrosus* (Lütken, 1874), *Pimelodus maculatus* Lacépède, 1803, *Pimelodus* sp. (Pimelodidae), *Pimelodella* sp. (Heptapteridae), *Loricariichthys platymetopon* Isbrücker and Nijssen, 1979 (Loricariidae) and *Auchenipterus osteomystax* (Miranda-Ribeiro, 1919) (Auchenipteridae) were collected from 1991 through 1995 during expeditions to the reservoir of the Itaipu Hydroelectric Power Station (RIHPS) in the localities of "Foz do Iguaçu", "Santa Helena" and "Guaira". The gills of the hosts were removed and placed in bowls containing 1:4000 formalin solution and shaken. Additional formalin was added to reach the concentration of 4%. The parasites were collected and mounted unstained into slides with Hoyer's mounting medium or stained Gomori's trichrome and mounted in Canada balsam. Holotypes and paratypes of *Demidospermus labrosi* and *Demidospermus mandi* deposited at the Helminthological Collection of "Instituto Oswaldo Cruz" (CHIOC) were examined. Photomicrographies were taken with a digital camera Sony acopled at Axioskop light microscope. Observations were made also using a confocal laser scanning microscope Zeiss LSM 510 (CSLM). Slides of studied specimens were deposited at CHIOC.

Suriano (1983) proposed the genus *Demidospermus* for *D. anus*, parasite from the gills of *Loricariichthys anus* (Valenciennes, 1835) (= *Loricaria anus*) from the Laguna de Chascomus, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Gutierrez and Suriano (1992) described three new species from the Río de la Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina: *Demidospermus paravalenciennesi* described from *Synodontis clarias* (Linnaeus) (= *Pimelodus clarias*), later redescribed by Kritsky and Gutierrez (1998) from the same host and reported from *Pimelodus maculatus* by Gutierrez and Martorelli (1999), all from Argentina and recently referred in *P. maculatus* from Brazil (SANTOS et al., 2007); *Demidospermus valenciennesi* from *Parapimelodus valenciennes* (Lutken, 1874), previously referred in the same host and type locality and from Rio Uruguay near Colón, Entre Rios, Argentina by Kritsky and Gutierrez (1998); the third species, *Demidospermus uncusvalidus*, was originally described from *Synodontis clarias* and *Trachelyopterus galeatus* (Linnaeus, 1766) (= *Parauchenipterus galeatus*) and also referred by Kritsky and Gutierrez (1998) in *S. clarias* and in *P. maculatus* by Gutierrez and Martorelli (1999) from Argentina and by Santos et al. (2007) from Brazil. Kritsky and Gutierrez (1998) emended the diagnosis of the genus and proposed five new species, also from the Río de la Plata, Argentina: *Demidospermus armostus* from *S. clarias*, previously

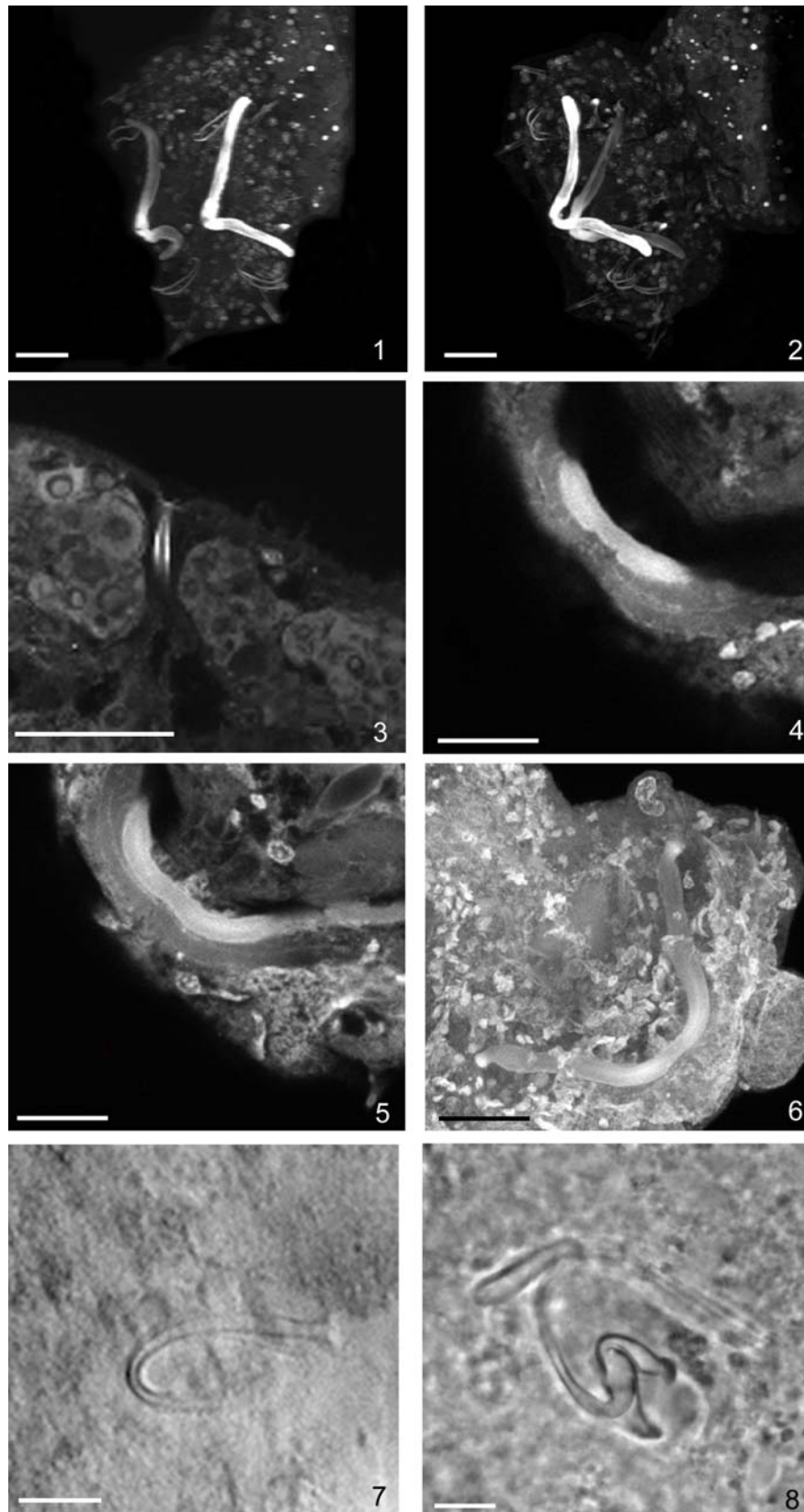
reported by Gutierrez and Martorelli (1999) and by Gutierrez (2001) in *P. maculatus* and *Pimelodus albicans* (Valenciennes, 1840) respectively, in the type locality; *Demidospermus cornicinus* and *Demidospermus leptosynophallus* from the gills of *Bergiaria westermanii* (Lutken, 1874) (= *Iheringichthys westermanii*); *Demidospermus idulus* and *Demidospermus majusculus* from the gills of *P. albicans*. Kritsky and Gutierrez (1998) considered *Omothecium* Kritsky, Thatcher and Boeger, 1987 and *Paramphocleithrum* Suriano and Incorvaia, 1995 as synonyms of *Demidospermus*, proposing three new combinations: *Demidospermus bidiverticulatum* (Suriano and Incorvaia, 1995) originally described from *P. maculatus* (= *Pimelodus clarias maculatus*) and referred by them in *S. clarias* and *P. albicans*, *Demidospermus luckyi* (Kritsky, Thatcher and Boeger, 1987) and *Demidospermus pinirampi* (Kritsky, Thatcher and Boeger, 1987) from *Pinirampus pinirampi* (Spix and Agassiz, 1829) from Amazonas, Brazil.

Eight known species of *Demidospermus* are reported from the reservoir of Itaipú Hydroelectric Power Station. From them, four species are recorded for the first time in Brazil, extending their geographical distribution: *Demidospermus armostus* from *Pimelodus maculatus*, *Demidospermus anus* Suriano, 1983 from *Loricariichthys platymetopon*, representing a new host record (Figures. 1-3), *Demidospermus bidiverticulatum* from *Pimelodus maculatus*, *Pimelodus* sp. and in a new host *Auchenipterus osteomystax* and *Demidospermus valenciennesi* collected from two new hosts, *Pimelodus* sp. and *P. maculatus*. *Demidospermus paravalenciennesi* and *D. uncusvalidus* were also collected from *P. maculatus* and *Pimelodus* sp.

*Demidospermus cornicinus* Kritsky and Gutierrez, 1998 is characterized by having the marginal hook pair 1 larger than the others with expanded shank and a flared termination of the male copulatory organ. *Demidospermus labrosi* França, Isaac and Pavanelli (2003) was originally described from *Iheringichthys labrosus* from the upper Paraná River floodplain, Brazil; the authors stated that this species is similar to *D. cornicinus* regarding the dorsal bar V shaped, dorsal and ventral anchors with poorly differentiated roots, vaginal vestibule presenting sclerotized ridges, but differs from it in the ventral bar, which presents a serrated internal margin and with a concavity and in the copulatory organ.

From examination of 228 *Demidospermus* specimens collected from *I. labrosus*, *Pimelodus* sp. and *Pimelodella* sp. and the holotype and paratypes of *D. labrosi*, we observed that the serrated margin of the ventral bar described by França et al. (2003) can be visualized or not, depending of its angular position (Figures. 4-6). We could not observe any difference in the morphology of the copulatory complex between *D. labrosi* and *D. cornicinus*. Depending on the image focus, the male copulatory organ can be observed as funnel-shaped or with a flared termination (Figure 7). Considering the morphological characteristics cited above and similar measurements between the two species, we propose *D. labrosi* as a junior synonym of *D. cornicinus*.

We report *Demidospermus cornicinus* in two new hosts:



Figures 1-3. *Demidospermus anus* Suriano, 1983. 1-2. Haptor with dorsal bars, ventral bars and hooks (CSLM). 3. Detail of vagina (CSLM). Figures 4-7. *Demidospermus cornicinus* Kritsky and Gutierrez, 1998. 4-6. Detail of ventral bar (CSLM). 7. Light micrograph of the male copulatory complex. Figure 8. *Demidospermus leptosynophallus* Kritsky and Gutierrez, 1998. Light micrograph of the male copulatory complex. Scale bars: 1,2,4,5,7: 10 mm; 3,6: 20 mm; 8: 15 mm.

*Pimelodus* sp. and *Pimelodella* sp. and in a host previously referred in Brazil, by França et al. (2003), *Iheringichthys labrosus*.

*Demidospermus leptosynophallus* was described by Kritsky and Gutierrez (1998) and is characterized by the hook pairs 1,2 and 7 presenting dilated shank comprising 2 subunits and by the male copulatory complex J shaped and base with two sclerotized flaps. *Demidospermus mandi* França, Isaac and Pavanelli (2003) from the gills of *I. labrosus* from the upper Parana River, Brazil, was described with the male copulatory complex having the distal region forming a bulb, in which it was differentiated from *D. leptosynophallus*. Examining the holotype and paratypes of *D. mandi*, we observed similarity of the copulatory complex with our specimens (Fig. 8). This feature and morphometrical data in agreement lead us to consider *D. mandi* a junior synonym of *D. leptosynophallus*. This species was found parasitizing *I. labrosus* and two new hosts, *Pimelodus* sp. and *Pimelodella* sp.

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Received on December 06, 2007.

Accepted for publication on August 07, 2008.