PRELIMINARY HELMINTH FAUNA OF *Astyanax taeniatus* (JENYNS, 1842) (CHARACIFORMES: CHARACIDAE) FROM ENGENHO NOVO RIVER, FIOCRUZ MATA ATLÂNTICA BIOLOGICAL STATION, FIOCRUZ MATA ATLÂNTICA CAMPUS, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

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Abstract

The Fiocruz Mata Atlântica Campus (FMAC) is located in Maciço da Pedra Branca, Rio de Janeiro. It occupies an area provided by the Federal Government and managed by the Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (FIOCRUZ). The FMAC territory is home of five communities with approximately 800 residents. The Fiocruz Mata Atlântica Biological Station (FMABS) encompasses approximately 430 hectares, where the Engenho Novo River valley is located. Among the main species that comprise the ichthyofauna of the region, *Astyanax taeniatus* (Jenyns, 1842) is popularly known as “lambari”. Members of this species occur in rivers and streams, are omnivorous, and prized for consumption and commercial purposes. Studies on ichthyoparasitology in the FMAC have not yet been conducted. Thus, this study aimed to record the preliminary survey of *A. taeniatus* parasites from the Engenho Novo River, at FMABS, FMAC. Twenty lambaris were collected, individually placed in plastic bags, placed in Styrofoam boxes ice-cold and transported to the Laboratório de Helmintos Parasitos de Peixes, Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, FIOCRUZ. All hosts were necropsied and the parasites collected were processed according to specific methodology. Gills were stored in 70% ethanol for later examinations, and six of them have been examined so far. The following parasites were identified: one species of Nematoda (Camallanidae) – larvae and adults of *Camallanus cotti* Fujita, 1927 in the intestine; one of Monopisthocotyla (Dactylogyridae) – *Jainus* sp. and one of Trematoda (Heterophyidae) – metacercariae of *Centrocestus formosanus* (Nishigori, 1924), both in the gills. The species identified herein are unprecedented records in the host and geographic location. These results highlight the need to enrich knowledge about biodiversity in the Atlantic Forest remnant of the largest urban forest in the Americas. In addition, the presence of *C. formosanus* in *A. taeniatus* reveals a public health alert due to the zoonotic potential of these metacercariae.

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