GASTROINTESTINAL PARASITES FOUND IN *Conepatus amazonicus* (CARNIVORA: MEPHITIDAE) IN AN AGROECOSYSTEM IN SOUTHEASTERN GOIÁS

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The Cerrado is notable for its rich diversity and endemism, but faces degradation due to hunting, fire management and deforestation, making it a "hot spot" of threatened biodiversity. Members of the Mephitidae family, such as *Conepatus amazonicus*, Hog-nosed Skunks, are nocturnal and omnivorous animals that have a perianal gland that produces a strong odor for defense; they have a wide distribution including Atlantic Forest and Cerrado in Brazil, being adaptable to disturbed environments, but are still poorly studied. Parasitic infections, while generally non-lethal, deteriorate the health and behavior of animals, increasing their vulnerability to predation and other environmental pressures. The scarcity of data on the prevalence of parasites in wild animals poses a risk to the health of populations and humans. Thus, the objective of this work is to identify the evolutionary parasitic forms found in carcasses of *C. amazonicus* collected after being run over on roads in the Cerrado of Goiás. For this, the adult worms were dissected and their structures analyzed, comparing with works found in the literature. Eggs were also visualized in order to confirm the identification. Three genera of parasites were identified, *Spirometra* sp., *Prosthenorchis* sp., *Physaloptera* sp., and the biological cycles of the parasites were compared to the feeding habits of *C. amazonicus*, showing the zoonotic potential of the helminths. The data obtained encourage further work on the epidemiology of wild animal parasites, as well as studies of these parasites with molecular biology, for specific identification.

Key-words: *Conepatus amazonicus, Spirometra*, *Prosthenorchis*