ENDOPARASITES FOUND IN GUIANA DOLPHINS (*Sotalia guianensis*) IN NORTHEASTERN BRAZIL

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Cetaceans are considered environmental sentinels in the ecosystems they inhabit. Parasitic infections are common, being one of the main causes of strandings, although they are not always associated with the cause of death. Public data from the Aquatic Biota Monitoring Information System (SIMBA) were used to identify parasites found in stranded Guiana dolphins (*Sotalia guianensis*, Van Beneden, 1864) along the PMP-SE/AL stretch, which is monitored from the municipality of Conde (BA) to Pontal do Peba (AL). SIMBA allows the standardization and systematization of data generated during the activities of the Beach Monitoring Project (PMP). The taxonomy filter "*Sotalia guianensis*" was applied to the sections "Target Fauna Occurrences" and "Anatomopathological Examinations" to find the total number of stranded and necropsied individuals, respectively. Data obtained from anatomopathological examinations were analyzed to determine the proportion of stranded animals with the presence of any endoparasite. Finally, in the "Laboratory Tests/Images" section, the filters "*Sotalia guianensis*" and "Coprological/Parasitological" were applied to access the identification of the parasites. Between 10/01/2020 and 27/08/2024, 196 Guiana dolphin strandings were recorded, 162 of which underwent anatomopathological examination. Of these, 29 (17.9%) had the presence of some endoparasite, and 12 specimens were collected for identification. *Halocercus brasiliensis* was identified in 6 of the 12 animals (50%) in the lungs; *Anisakis spp.* in 1 animal (8.3%) in the stomach; *Halocercus brasiliensis* and *Anisakis spp.* in 2 animals (16.7%) in the lungs and stomach, respectively; and *Contracaecum spp.* in 3 animals (25%) in the stomach. These parasites, in addition to being associated with pathologies that hinder the animal's survival in nature, are also poorly studied and increase the risks to human health due to the zoonosis resulting from their parasitism in humans.

Keywords: Cetacean, Stranding, Parasitism.