HELMINTH FAUNA OF *Colossoma macropomum* (CHARACIFORMES: SERRASALMIDAE) FROM FISH FARM LOCATED IN RIO BRANCO, STATE OF ACRE, BRAZIL

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Abstract

The Amazon region stands out as an ideal location for the development of fish farming activities. Brazil is currently the 13th largest producer of freshwater fish in the world, with *Colossoma macropomum* (Cuvier, 1816), “tambaqui” being the most cultivated native fish in Brazil. The large production of “tambaqui” is mainly due to its hardiness in handling, easy reproduction in a cultured environment, omnivorous feeding habits, rapid growth, and wide acceptance in the domestic and foreign consumer markets. Despite its hardiness, the species demonstrates sensitivity to infections caused by several pathogens, with the helminths Monopisthocotyla and Acanthocephala being among the most worrying in culture systems. The aim of this study was to identify the helminth fauna of *C. macropomum* from a fish farm established in the state of Acre. Eight specimens of *C. macropomum* were examined. The parasites were processed according to appropriate methodology. Five species of Dactylogyridae were found: *Anacanthorus spatulatus* Kritsky, Thatcher & Kayton, 1979, *Mymarothecium iiapensis* Morey, Aliano & Grandez, 2019, *Mymarothecium tantaliani* Cayulla-Quispe, Mondragón-Martínez, Rojas-De-Los-Santos, Garcia-Candela, Babilonia-Medina & Martínez-Rojas, 2020, *Notozotecium janauchensis* Belmont-Jégu, Domingues & Martins, 2004 and *Linguadactyloides* sp., in addition the Acanthocephala *Neoechinorhynchus buttnerae* Golvan, 1956. Two species *M. iapiensis* and *M. tantaliani* are recorded for the first time in Brazil. *Neoechinorhynchus buttnerae* was identified in the 1990s and has been causing damage to the productive performance of “tambaquis” ever since. These data highlight the importance of expanding epidemiological studies on parasitic fauna in different production centers, aiming at developing strategies to prevent outbreaks and the spread of parasitic diseases.

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