FIRST REPORT OF THE ANISAKID *Contracaecum jorgei* SARDELLA, MANCINI, SALINAS, SIMÕES & LUQUE, 2020 (NEMATODA: ANISAKIDAE) IN COMMON SNOOK *Centropomus undecimalis* (BLOCH, 1792) (OSTEICHTHYES: CENTROPOMIDAE) FROM BRAZIL

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Abstract

Centropomus undecimalis, common snook, occurs in marine and estuarine waters, and to a lesser extent, in freshwater from North Carolina, down through Florida in the United States, to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, including Central America. This species is economically important throughout the Brazilian coast, as well as for sport fishing and potential for fish farming. Belonging to the Anisakidae family, *Contracaecum jorgei* was originally described in *Hoplias argentinensis* from Argentina. The records of anisakids, especially in commercial fish species, should not be neglected, as anisakiasis in humans is a gastrointestinal parasitic infection that results from the accidental ingestion of infective larvae. The present study aimed at identifying and recording this anisakid in *C. undecimalis* from Brazil, based on morphology and molecular analysis. A total of 15 specimens of *C. undecimalis* were collected by artisanal fishermen in Rodrigo de Freitas lagoon, state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. These specimens were transported, in ice-cold styrofoam boxes and individually packaged inside plastic bags, to the Laboratório de Biologia e Ecologia de Parasitos of the Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro, for examination. Genomic DNA was extracted using DNeasy® Blood and Tissue Kit (Qiagen) and the amplification was carried out using the cytochrome c oxidase subunit 2 (*cox*2) as molecular marker. Among the common snooks collected, 10 were parasitized by at least one third-stage larval specimen (L3) of *C. jorgei*, encysted in the abdominal cavity, with prevalence 66.7%. The measurements and morphology were compatible with the recent description of *C. jorgei* from *H. argentinensis*. The nucleotide sequences obtained from the *cox*2 had 100% of query cover and 99.4% similarity with sequences of *C. jorgei* deposited in GenBank. Therefore, the molecular analysis corresponded with the morphological identification confirming that the L3 larvae of *C. jorgei* collected from *C. undecimalis*.

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