

Description of *Physaloptera goytaca* n. sp. (Nematoda, Physalopteridae) parasite of *Cerradomys goytaca* from north of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Luanna Castro Oliveira^{1*}, Samira Salim Mello Gallo¹, Francisco Carlos Rodrigues de Oliveira¹, Nicole Brand Ederli²

¹ Universidade Estadual do Norte Fluminense Darcy Ribeiro (UENF), Campos dos Goytacazes, RJ, Brazil,; ² Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF), Santo Antônio de Pádua, RJ, Brazil

* Apresentadora do trabalho no congresso

The rodent *Cerradomys goytaca* inhabits open vegetation biomes, denominated “restingas”, and was described from the coastal region of southern Espírito Santo to the northern region of the state of Rio de Janeiro, and this species shares the same ecological niche as *C. subflavus*. The genus *Physaloptera* are common in rodents, including being reported in species of the family Cricetidae. So far, nematoda in *C. goytaca* has not been reported. In this way, the objective of this work was to report the occurrence of new species of nematodes of these rats. Therefore, 16 rodents were collected in the municipality of Quissamã, in the north of the state of Rio de Janeiro. Rodents were necropsied and organs of the digestive tract were analyzed under a stereomicroscope for the presence of parasites and the gastrointestinal contents were passed in Tamis. The nematodes were washed in 0.65% saline and fixed in hot AFA and Karnovsky solution, clarified in Amann's Lactophenol, mounted on a slide and observed under an optical microscope. The nematodes were also processed for scanning electron microscopy (SEM). The nematode has a strong, filiform body. Evident sexual dimorphism, with larger and more robust females than males. Oral opening presenting two semicircular lips, with one lateral external tooth and one internal lateral tripartite tooth on each lip. The males have a ventrally curved posterior end, spirally shaped, with a well developed caudal alae, ornamented with irregular linear textures. Presence of a total of 21 caudal papillae, four pairs of pendulous papillae arranged laterally in the caudal wing, three pre-cloacal papillae arranged in rectilinear pattern and five pairs of post-cloacal papillae, two pairs of papillae immediately after the cloaca in a rectilinear arrangement, the third pair located below, with perpendicular orientation; And the 4th and 5th pair are arranged parallel, near the caudal end, equidistant. Presence of one pair of phasmids located between the 4th and 5th pair of post-cloacal papillae. Two spicules subequal in size and different in shape, the left being slightly larger than the right. The left spicule with the final third presenting a dilatation and slightly curved end, the right spike with homogeneous width and tapering termination and with curvature a little more pronounced than the left spine. Females have a total number of five uterine branches. In this way it can be concluded that the *Physaloptera* species that parasitize the *C. goytaca* rodent is a new species, here called *Physaloptera goytaca*.

Key-words: Cricetidae, Nematoda, Endoparasite