

Cavalcante, PHO^{1,2}, Silva, MT^{1,2}, Moutinho, VAC², Santos, EGN³, Camargo, ACA², Santos, CP²

¹Instituto Federal de Educação Ciência e Tecnologia do Acre, Av. Brasil, n° 920, Bairro Xavier Maia, Rio Branco - AC CEP 69.903-068.

²Laboratório de Avaliação e Promoção da Saúde Ambiental, Fiocruz, Av. Brasil 4365, CEP 21040-30, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

³Pós-graduação em Ciências Veterinárias, Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro, BR 465, Km 7, CEP 23890-000, Seropédica, Brazil.

Nematodes of the dracunculoid family represents a group of about 200 parasitic species in the body cavity and various body tissues of fish. Due to morphological and biological peculiarities, most of them are known only by their large females. During a survey on the freshwater catfish *Pimelodus blochii* Valenciennes (Pimelodidae) collected in the Acre River (Amazon River basin), Acre State, Brazil, two female specimens of *Philometroides* Yamaguti, 1935 were recovered from the stomach wall and are described herein. A total of 120 specimens of the catfish *P. blochii* were caught between November 2013 and April 2014 by a local fisherman in the Acre River (10°39'40.33"S, 68°30' 19.51"W). The specimens collected were fixed in 70% ethanol and the other in 4% formalin. They were cleared in glycerine. After being measured the parasites were drawn. Subsequently, the anterior and posterior parts of body were postfixed for 24 h at room temperature in 1% osmium tetroxide in cacodilate buffer, dehydrated through a graded alcohol series, critical-point dried and sputter-coated with gold for analysis by scanning electron microscopy (SEM). Based on examination by light and scanning electron microscopy, *Philometroides* n. sp. is proposed. The species differ from the two other South American congeneric species mainly in the body length of the gravid female (240–280 mm), the length of the oesophagus (1.25 mm in holotype) representing 0.5% of the entire body length, the range of cuticular embossment, as well as the location in the host (stomach), order of the fish host (Siluriformes) and the geographical distribution (Amazon River drainage system). This is the third known species of *Philometroides* Yamaguti, 1935 reported from South America and a key to species of *Philometroides* occurring in fish of America is provided.

This study was supported financially by the Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico, Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Ensino Superior, Fundação Oswaldo Cruz, Instituto Federal do Acre and Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Acre.