

Fleas of wild rodents in the Brazilian Pampa biome

Diogo Schott, Ugo Araújo Souza, José Reck

Programa de Pós-graduação em Saúde Animal (PPGSA), Instituto de Pesquisas Veterinárias Desidério Finamor (IPVDF), Eldorado do Sul, RS, Brasil. (diogo.schott@yahoo.com)

The diversity of animal parasites associated with wild environments in the Brazilian Pampa biome is poorly known, especially regarding Order Siphonaptera. Fleas are ectoparasites from both domestic and wild animals, and can be associated to the transmission of several diseases. The aim of this work is to characterize the flea diversity of rodents from the Brazilian Pampa biome. For this, fleas were collected from wild rodents captured in 14 municipalities. The identification was carried out using morphological dichotomous key. In total, 385 rodents of 14 species were captured. From these, fleas were found in 17 rodents belonging to six different species from five municipalities. A total of 31 fleas belonging to two genera were identified: *Polygenis* spp. (Siphonaptera: Rhopalopsyllidae) and *Craneopsylla* spp. (Siphonaptera: Stephanocircidae). The total frequency of positive rodents was 0.04, while the intensity was 1.82 and abundance was 0.04. The host with the highest number of fleas was *Oligoryzomys nigripes* (Olfers, 1818), with nine specimens and a frequency of 9.37. In addition, *Oxymycterus nasutus* (Waterhouse, 1837) presented higher intensity and abundance, of 4.00 and 0.80, respectively. In relation to fleas, in this study we found 16 specimens of *Polygenis (Polygenis) platensis* ssp. (Jordan & Rothschild, 1908), a species reported until now just on the northern coast of the State of Rio Grande do Sul. We also identified 10 specimens of *Craneopsylla minerva minerva* (Rothschild, 1903) and five specimens of *Polygenis (Neopolygenis) pradoi* (Wagner, 1937); both species never reported in Brazilian Pampa in rodents. Further studies will also address the investigation of potentially zoonotic flea-borne pathogens.

Keywords: Siphonaptera; Ectoparasite; Animal health.

Support: FAPERGS; CAPES; CNPq.