

Larvae of *Contraecum* sp. (Nematoda, Anisakidae) associated to fish of commercial interest in the middle course of the Tocantins River

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Modifications generated by the establishment of reservoirs in rivers of the tropical region usually lead to the development of ideal conditions for favoring cycles of parasites associated with fish. Fish species of the genus *Cichla* are especially favored by these formed environments and are susceptible to interaction with these parasites, which becomes a concern for the highcommercial value of these species of fish. Fishes of the species *Cichla kelberi* (Kullander & Ferreira, 2006) were collected in the lake of the hydroelectric power plant of Estreito, state of Maranhão - Brazil, through on-board fishing using artificial baits. In the period of December 2016 to February of 2017, 20 fish were captured and taken to the Laboratory of Ecology and Limnology - LEL of the State University of the Tocantina Region of Maranhão - UEMASUL, where they were sacrificed and dissected for the evaluation of the presence of parasites in the mesentery and internal organs. The larval forms of nematodes found were fixed in FAA for 48 hours and later transferred to alcohol-glycerinated solution. The samples were taken to the Carlos Azevedo Research Laboratory - LPCA of the Federal Rural University of Amazonia - UFRA, where specimens were diaphanized using lactic acid to visualize the anatomical structures used in the identification. Larval (L3) forms of anisakidae of the genus *Contraecum* were found in the mesentery and / or liver of 23% of the analyzed specimens, another 5% of the analyzed individuals presented L3 larvae of the *Contraecum* sp in the anterior dorsal musculature. The presence of Anakisian larvae, especially in the musculature of fish of high commercial interest, is a matter of concern, which may in the future generate problems of economic and public health.

key words: anisakidae, Tucunarés, Environmental health