

Acanthocephalans parasites of *Orthopristis ruber* (Cuvier, 1830) from the Brazilian Coast off Rio de Janeiro.

Lucas Keidel^{1,2}, Ana Carolina Alves de Camargo¹, Cláudia Portes Santos¹

¹Laboratório de Avaliação e Promoção da Saúde Ambiental, Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, Fiocruz, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil.

²Programa de Pós-Graduação em Biologia Parasitária, Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, Fiocruz.

The fish *Orthopristis ruber* (Cuvier, 1830) (Haemulidae) known as “grunts” or “cocoroca” are distributed between the Caribbean to the southern coast of Brazil. During a survey on parasites of *O. ruber* off Urca, Rio de Janeiro, acanthocephalans were found in the intestine. The acanthocephalans reported so far from this fish host include *Dollfusentis chandleri* and *Serrasentis* sp. However, the taxonomic status of *D. chandleri* needs to be revised. Therefore, a preliminary integrative taxonomic study, including morphological and genetic data, was undertaken in order to better characterize the species and thus contribute to a better specific diagnosis. A total of 72 fish collected by local fisherman from April 2015 to March 2016 were examined in saline medium under a stereomicroscope. The acanthocephalans kept for 24 hours in the fridge to evert the proboscis were subsequently fixed in 70% ethanol or 4% formaldehyde solution. The body of some parasites was divided in three parts. The anterior and posterior parts were used stained in Paracarmin and mounted in permanent slides with Canada balsam. Drawings were made with the aid of a drawing tube. The genomic DNA of mid-body was extracted using phenol-chloroform method and amplified by PCR for the partial 28S rDNA region using specific set of primers to be sequenced. A total of 136 acanthocephalans were collected. The prevalence of *Dollfusentis* sp. was 34,7% and the intensity of infection was 1–18 (5,4) parasites per fish. The phylogenetic reconstruction based on the new partial 28S rDNA sequence shows *Dollfusentis* sp. forming a common well supported clade with a species of *Illiosentis* within the Illiosentidae Golvan, 1960. The ultrastructural study and new genetic data are under development to better characterize the acanthocephalans of *O. ruber*.

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