



Nematode parasites of two species of *Chaunus* (Anura: Bufonidae) from Corrientes, Argentina

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Abstract

From October 2000 to February 2005, the nematofauna of *Chaunus fernandezae* (Gallardo, 1957) and *Chaunus bergi* (Céspedes, 2000) was studied from Corrientes city, Province of Corrientes, Argentina. Twenty one *C. fernandezae* (81.0%) and fifteen *C. bergi* (75.0%) were parasitized. Four nematodes species were found. *Chaunus fernandezae* is a new host for *Ortleppascaris* sp., *Physaloptera* sp., *Cosmocerca podicipinus* and *C. parva*. *Chaunus bergi* a new host for *C. podicipinus* and *C. parva*.

Key words: Nematoda, *Chaunus fernandezae*, *Chaunus bergi*, Bufonidae, Corrientes, Argentina, parasites

Introduction

The nematode parasites of Argentinean amphibians have been noted by Gutierrez (1945), Sueldo and Ramirez (1976), Ramirez *et al.* (1979), Baker (1980), Mordeglia and Digiani (1998), González and Hamann (2004; 2006a; 2006b) and Hamann *et al.* (2006); however, the helminth fauna of the bufonids *Chaunus fernandezae* (Gallardo, 1957) and *C. bergi* (Céspedes, 2000) have not been reported. Here we present surveys of adult and larval nematodes of the families Cosmocercidae Travassos, 1925, Ascarididae Baird, 1853 and Physalopteridae Leiper 1908 in *C. fernandezae* and *C. bergi* from Corrientes City, Province of Corrientes, Argentina. We also present new morphological and metrical data for the helminths encountered.

Material and Methods

Fourteen male and 11 female *C. fernandezae* and 13 male and 7 female *C. bergi* were collected in an area 15 km from Corrientes City (27°28'S–58°50'W), Province of Corrientes, Argentina between October 2000 and February 2005.

Toads were transported live to the laboratory, killed with chloroform, and snout-vent length (SVL) and body weight recorded. Generic allocation of the toads (previously in the genus *Bufo*) follows Frost (2006). At necropsy, hosts were sexed and the alimentary canal, lungs, liver and gall bladder, kidneys, body cavity, musculature and integument examined for parasites. Nematodes were observed *in vivo*, counted and killed in hot distilled water before being fixed in 70.0% ethyl alcohol, cleared in glycerin or lactophenol and examined as temporary mounts. Identification of the nematodes was carried out following Yamaguti (1961). All measurements reported are in microns, unless otherwise indicated. Prevalence and mean intensity were calculated according to Bush *et al.* (1997). Representative specimens have been deposited in the Helminthological Collection of the Centro de Ecología Aplicada del Litoral (CECOAL), Corrientes, Argentina. *Chaunus fernan-*