



Checklist of helminth parasites in wild carnivore mammals from Brazil

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Abstract

Ninety-five helminth parasite species totaling 480 records (including 60 new host and geographical records) in 21 species of wild carnivore mammals from Brazil were listed. Nineteen undetermined helminth species and 4 undetermined host species were also included. Information about the site of infection of parasites, localities, references and a host-parasite list were included herein.

Key words: Helminths, Biodiversity, wild carnivore mammals, Neotropics, Brazil

Introduction

Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world, and the first of the megadiversity countries, accounting for roughly 14% of the world's biota (Lewinsohn & Prado 2002). It has the largest mammal diversity (more than 530 described species) with many yet to be discovered and catalogued (Costa *et al.* 2005). Although mammal conservation had benefited from a number of recent initiatives by the government and nongovernmental organizations, carnivores is one of the mammals group most threatened in Brazil (Costa *et al.* 2005).

The parasites are recognized as an important component of global biodiversity and the research effort directed to documenting parasite species have been increased on the last years (Poulin & Morand 2004). With an increasing awareness by the general public and by the scientific community in function of the accelerating loss of biological diversity, comparative tests using parasites as indicators of ecological age and diversity will come as more complete studies of biotic diversity in different geographic areas on earth become available reinforcing the needs for more information on parasite fauna (Gardner & Campbell 1992).

Some previous monographs (Yamaguti 1959, 1963, 1971; Travassos 1965; Travassos *et al.* 1969; Schmidt 1986; Thatcher 1993; and Vicente *et al.* 1997) included records of helminth parasites of Brazilian carnivore mammals inside on generalized compilations. Here we present the first effort to compile and summarize the helminth parasites of wild carnivore mammals from Brazil. This is also the first attempt to include massive information from the Helminthological Collection of the Oswaldo Cruz Institute (CHIOC), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which is unpublished.