



A new species of *Raphidascaris* (*Sprentascaris*) (Nematoda: Anisakidae) in *Hypostomus cordovae* (Pisces: Loricariidae) from Argentina

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Abstract

A new species of *Raphidascaris* (*Sprentascaris*) (Anisakidae) from the intestine of *Hypostomus cordovae* is described. It represents the fourth South American species, and the first species reported from Argentina. It is separated from its congeners by possessing three pairs of postanal papillae, and by the shape and size of the lips.

Key words: *Raphidascaris* (*Sprentascaris*), Nematoda, Parasites, freshwater fishes, Argentina

Introduction

Members of the Loricariidae are mainly distributed in freshwaters of South America and some areas of Central America, even though some species exhibit some tolerance to the brackish biotope. About 70 genera and 600 nominal species have been recorded. Species are currently found in lotic habitats (rivers and streams) with sandy and/or rocky substrata, or in lentic habitats of muddy substrata, building and inhabiting caves or galleries on the costs (López & Miquelarena, 1991).

In Argentina, 4 genera of the Loricariidae, *Rhinelepis* von Spix, *Cochliodon* Heckel, *Hypostomus* Lacepede and *Pterygoplichthys* Gill, have been recorded. In addition, 12 nominal species of the genus *Hypostomus* have been recorded, and, among them, *H. cordovae* is endemic in Argentina (López & Miquelarena, 1991).

Members of the Anisakidae are parasites of vertebrates. Nematodes of this family that occur in Neotropical freshwater fishes as adults belong to five genera: *Goezia* Zeder, *Hysterothylacium* Ward & Magath, *Terranova* Leiper & Atkinson, *Raphidascaroides* Yamaguti and *Raphidascaris* Railliet & Henry. *Goezia*, *Hysterothylacium* and *Raphidascaris* are almost cosmopolitan in their distribution, although some species of *Raphidascaris* (*Sprentascaris*) have been recorded in several localities along South America (Moravec, 1998).

Three species of *Raphidascaris* (*Sprentascaris*) Petter & Cassone (1984) occur in Neotropical freshwater fishes: *Raphidascaris* (*Sprentascaris*) *hypostomi* (Petter & Cassone, 1984) from Paraguay and Brazil, *Raphidascaris* (*Sprentascaris*) *manherti* (Petter & Cassone, 1984) from Paraguay, Brazil and Venezuela, and *Raphidascaris* (*Sprentascaris*) *pimelodi* (Petter & Cassone, 1984) from Paraguay (Petter & Cassone, 1984; Moravec *et al.* 1990; Royero *et al.* 1997; Moravec, 1998).

The aim of this paper was to describe the fourth species of *Raphidascaris* (*Sprentascaris*) in a species of *Hypostomus* from South America, and the first species of this subgenus recorded from Argentina.