



New species of *Oochoristica* (Cestoda; Linstowiidae) and other endoparasites of *Trachylepis atlantica* (Sauria: Scincidae) from Fernando de Noronha Island, Brazil

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Abstract

Oochoristica noronhae n. sp. from the small intestines of *Trachylepis atlantica* Schmidt (Sauria: Scincidae) from Fernando de Noronha, Brazil is described and illustrated. Prevalence of infection was 81%, mean intensity 30. ± 1.8, range (1–7). *Oochoristica noronhae* n. sp. represents the 88th species assigned to the genus and the 14th species from the Neotropical region. Of the 14 Neotropical species, *O. noronhae* n. sp. is most similar to *O. parvula* and *O. vanzolinii* in that these three species have circular suckers and fewer than 30 testes per proglottid. These three species can be separated on the basis of number of lobules per ovarian lobe; in *O. vanzolinii* the ovarian lobe is entire, *O. parvula* has 3–5 lobules/lobe, *O. noronhae* has 8–10 lobules/lobe. In addition to *O. noronhae* n. sp., two species of Nematoda, *Moaciria alvarengai* Freitas and *Spinicauda spinicauda* (Heterakidae), one species of Pentastomida, *Raillietiella freitasi* (Cephalobaenidae) and an undetermined species of Acanthocephala, as a cystacanth, were found.

Key words: *Oochoristica noronhae* n. sp., *Trachylepis atlantica*, *Moaciria alvarengai*, *Spinicauda spinicauda*, *Raillietiella freitasi*

Introduction

The Noronha skink, *Trachylepis atlantica* Schmidt, is endemic to Fernando de Noronha, a small volcanic archipelago in the equatorial South Atlantic, some 350 km off the northeastern Brazilian coast. It has been shown that *T. atlantica* belongs to the clade of Afro-Malagasy *Mabuya* (now in the genus *Trachylepis*; see Bauer 2003) rather than the South American radiation (*Mabuya* s. str.) and apparently represents an independent transmarine colonization from the west coast of Africa (Mausfeld *et al.* 2002; Carranza & Arnold 2003). Three other terrestrial reptiles occur on Fernando de Noronha: two species of introduced lizards, the tropical house gecko, *Hemidactylus mabouia* (Moreau de Jonnés) (Gekkonidae), and the black and white tegu, *Tupinambis merianae* Duméril & Bibron (Teiidae), and one endemic lizard, Ridley's worm lizard, *Amphisbaena ridleyi* Boulenger (Amphisbaenidae).

Until recently, the only reports of endoparasites from the herpetofauna of Fernando de Noronha were descriptions of two nematodes *Moaciria alvarengai* Freitas and *Parapharyngodon alvarengai* Freitas and one pentastomid *Raillietiella freitasi* (Motta & Gomes) and records of the trematode *Mesocoelium monas* (Rudolphi), all from the same host species: the scincid *Trachylepis atlantica* (= *Mabuya maculata*) (Freitas 1956, 1957, 1963, 1967; Motta & Gomes 1968). Recently, Ramalho *et al.* (2009) published a survey of helminths from one introduced (*Tupinambis merianae*) and two endemic lizards (*T. atlantica* and *Amphisbaena ridleyi*) of Fernando de Noronha, presenting qualitative and quantitative data on infection parameters. They found five helminth species infecting *T. atlantica*, including two nematodes, *M. alvarengai* and *Spinicauda spinicauda* (Olfers), two digeneans, *M. monas*