



Acanthocephalans of Amphibians and Reptiles (Anura and Squamata) from Ecuador, with the description of *Pandosentis napoensis* n. sp. (Neoechinorhynchidae) from *Hyla fasciata*

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Abstract

In a survey of 3457 amphibians and reptiles, collected in the Napo area of the Oriente region of Ecuador, 27 animals were found to be infected with acanthocephalans. Of 2359 Anura, 17 animals were infected with cystacanth stages of *Oligacanthorhynchus* spp., one frog with cystacanths of *Acanthocephalus* and one, *Hyla fasciata*, with a neoechinorhynchid, *Pandosentis napoensis* n. sp. Of 1098 Squamata, two colubrid snakes were infected with cystacanths of *Oligacanthorhynchus* sp., two with cystacanths of *Centrorhynchus* spp. and one with unidentifiable cystacanths; one lizard, a gekkonid, was infected with cystacanths of *Centrorhynchus* sp. and one lizard, an iguanid, with an *Oligacanthorhynchus* sp. The new species, *P. napoensis* can be differentiated from its congener *Pandosentis iracundus* in having a proboscis formula of 14 rows of 3 hooks as compared with 22 rows of 4 hooks and the lemnisci longer than the proboscis receptacle rather than the same length or shorter. *Pandosentis napoensis* may represent a host capture from fresh water fishes. Cystacanths of *Centrorhynchus* and *Oligacanthorhynchus* have been previously reported from South American amphibians and reptiles. Surprisingly, no adult *Acanthocephalus* were collected in this survey, although five species are known to occur in South American amphibians and reptiles.

Key words: Acanthocephala, *Pandosentis*, *Oligacanthorhynchus*, *Centrorhynchus*, *Acanthocephalus*, frogs, Anura, *Hyla fasciata*, Squamata Gekkonidae, Iguanidae, Colubridae, snakes, lizards, Ecuador, South America

Introduction

The acanthocephalan fauna of South America, particularly that of amphibians and reptiles, is not well known. A small number of reports including, from Argentina (Lajmanovich and Martinez de Ferrato 1995; Vizcaino 1993), Brazil (Travassos 1926; Hartwich 1956; Machado-Filho 1968, 1970; Vicente 1978; Stumpf 1981; Rodrigues 1986, 2001; Rodrigues et al. 1990; Catto and Amato 1994; Azevedo-Ramos et al. 1998; Vrcibradic et al. 2001, 2002; Bursey and Goldberg 2004), Chile (Fernandez and Ibarra 1989; Puga 1994; Torres and Puga 1996), Peru (Bursey et al. 2001), Uruguay (Hartwich 1956), and Venezuela (Van Cleave 1920; Lent and Portes-Santos 1989) have been published.

For Ecuador there is a single record of *Acanthocephalus sauria* Bursey and Goldberg, 2003 from the gymnophthalmid lizard *Cereosaura oshaughnesseyi* (Boulenger, 1885), as *Prionodactylus oshaughnesseyi*, by Bursey and Goldberg (2004). A search of the literature revealed no other reports from Ecuador, neither of cystacanths nor adults, from frogs and toads (Anura), or snakes and lizards (Squamata).

Ecuador is divided into three geographical regions, the Costa, between the Pacific Ocean and the Andes Mountains, the Sierra, the two major cordillera of the Andes Mountains and the Oriente, Andean foothills and eastern rainforest. This latter region is one of the world's richest rainforests. Water from the Andes collects in