



Checklist of digenean parasites of amphibians and reptiles from Argentina

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Abstract

A summary of the literature on the digeneans of amphibians and reptiles in Argentina is presented. This is the first compilation of 32 parasitological papers published from 1940 through 2006. This review includes 49 native species (11 frogs, 1 toad, 33 snakes, 2 turtles, 1 lizard and 1 crocodilian) and contains 42 species of adult digeneans belonging to 24 genera and 14 families as well as 5 genera of larval digeneans (metacercariae). Twenty-eight digenean species have been reported from reptiles and 14 from amphibians, of which 6 species (14.3%) were recorded as new species. The present review provides data on hosts, geographical distribution, site of infection, life cycle, the location of material deposited in Helminthological Collections and references for the parasite species arranged by Superfamilies. A host/parasite list is also provided.

Key words: Digenea, amphibians, reptiles, Argentina

Introduction

The literature on the Digenea parasites of amphibians and reptiles in Argentina is scattered and the studies have focused mainly on two areas, taxonomy in reptiles and ecology in amphibians.

The first digenean species reported for Argentinean reptiles was *Nematophila grandis* (Diesing, 1839) Travassos, 1934 (described as *Paramphistomum argentinum* Cordero & Vogelsang, 1940) found in the intestine of turtles from Misiones Province. Later, in the 60's Caubisens Poumarau introduced a different approach to the digeneans of snakes; she published her thesis which included the study of 42 snake species and the description of 16 digenean species. Since then, most records have been published as isolated reports describing one species in a particular host, and only a few surveys of digeneans of individual hosts have been conducted.

The first paper of amphibian digeneans was published by Szidat (1960). In that paper the author described a new genus and a new species, *Bursotrema tetracotyloides* Szidat, 1960, based on the metacercariae recovered in the kidney of *Leptodactylus ocellatus* from Buenos Aires Province. Since then many studies have been made. The majority of them, however, are related to ecological aspects of populations and communities of helminths.

This checklist summarizes the diversity of digeneans from amphibians and reptiles of Argentina and includes a host/parasite list.

Materials and methods

This checklist was prepared on the basis of data published from 1909 to 2006. The genera of Digenea are presented in alphabetical order according to taxa; each record contains information on the species name, author-