



Three new species of *Chordodes* and new data on hairworms (Nematomorpha) from Ecuador

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Abstract

The presently known freshwater Nematomorpha from Ecuador include only three species. Seven species of hairworms are herein firstly recorded from this country, which makes 10 the known species inhabiting Ecuador. Four of them are redescribed and three new species of *Chordodes* (*C. alticuspis*, *C. ecuatoriensis* and *C. ruginosus*) are described. All species are described using scanning electron microscopy. A list of all species known from Ecuador is also included.

Key words: Gordiida, new records, South America

Introduction

The Gordiida have a worldwide distribution inhabiting mainly tropical and subtropical areas. Although the nematomorph fauna of southern South America (e.g. Miralles & De Villalobos 1993; De Villalobos *et al* 2005; De Villalobos *et al.* 2006; Zanca & De Villalobos 2006), Central America and north South America (Schmidt-Rhaesa & Menzel 2005) and North America (Schmidt-Rhaesa *et al.* 2003) has been well investigated, reports from some South American countries, like Ecuador, are still extremely limited. At present, only three species of hairworms have been described from Ecuador: *Chordodes bouvieri* (Villot, 1885), *Chordodes festae* (Camerano, 1897a) (see Camerano 1987a; Camerano 1905; De Villalobos & Zanca 2001; Schmidt Rhaesa *et al.* 2008) and *Acutogordius obesus* (Camerano, 1895) (see Miralles & De Villalobos 1998; Schmidt Rhaesa & Geraci 2006) (Table 1).

In this paper we report new records from Ecuador, including the description of three new species of *Chordodes* and a redescription by SEM of *Chordodes bouvieri*. We also include new host data.

Material and methods

The specimens from Ecuador are from the Invertebrate collection of the Facultad de Ciencias Naturales, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, Quito, Ecuador [QCAZI] and are stored in 70% ethanol. The SEM stubs of the gold-sputtered of the holotypes are deposited in the Invertebrate Department, Museo de Ciencias Naturales, La Plata, Argentina [MLP].

Body measurements were made with outstretched worms using a ruler. Diameters were measured under a dissecting microscope using a caliper ruler.