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Two new species of myxosporean parasites (Myxosporea: Bivalvulida) from gall bladders of *Macruronus magellanicus* Lönnberg, 1907 (Teleostei: Merlucciidae)

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Abstract

Two new species of myxosporeans are described from the gall bladders of hoki, *Macruronus magellanicus* Lönnberg, 1907, caught in the Southeast Pacific off Chile and in the Southwest Atlantic off the Falkland Islands. *Pseudalataspora kovalevae* n. sp. is described morphologically and genetically. Of the 12 species of *Pseudalataspora* previously described from the gall bladders of marine fish, *P. kovalevae* is most similar in morphology to *P. umbraculiformis* Gaevskaya and Kovaleva, 1984. The 18S rRNA gene sequence from *P. kovalevae* is the first for a member of the genus *Pseudalataspora*. Based on currently available myxosporean 18S rRNA gene sequence data, *P. kovalevae* shares greatest sequence identity with species of the genus *Ceratomyxa* (*C. anko* and *C. pantherini*). *Palliatius magellanicus* n. sp. is described morphologically only; it differs considerably in morphology, host species and locality from the five other *Palliatius* species described from marine fishes. A third species from the gall bladder is also described morphologically and genetically. On the basis of its morphology it is tentatively identified as *Myxidium baueri* Kovaleva and Gaevskaya, 1982, for which *M. magellanicus* is a new host record. Molecular analysis indicates that, of those species for which data are available, *M. baueri* is most closely related to *Myxidium coryphaenoideum* Noble, 1966 based on 18S rRNA gene sequence data, though support for a phylogenetic grouping is low.

Key words: Myxozoa, *Pseudalataspora kovalevae* n. sp., *Myxidium baueri*, *Palliatius magellanicus* n. sp., *Macruronus magellanicus*, SW Atlantic, SE Pacific, 18S rRNA

Introduction

Macruronus magellanicus Lönnberg, 1907, commonly known as hoki or Patagonian grenadier, is an abundant pelagic fish distributed throughout the Southwest Atlantic and Southeast Pacific. It is of considerable commercial value to fisheries in Chile and Argentina, while its fishery to date is not well developed in the Falkland Islands. During a survey of the parasites of *M. magellanicus* caught in Chilean and Falkland Islands waters in 2009, we recorded three myxosporean species from the gall bladders. Detailed morphological and molecular studies of these myxosporeans confirmed that two of them did not correspond to the descriptions of any known species. They are therefore both described here as new. The third is tentatively identified as a species previously described from related host species in the same region.