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Digenean fauna in raptors from northeastern Argentina, with the description of a new species of *Strigea* (Digenea: Strigeidae)

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Abstract

The digenean fauna of six species of falconiform birds from northeastern Argentina is reported and a new species and several new hosts and geographical records are presented. *Strigea proteolytica* n. sp. (Strigeidae) is described from *Buteogallus urubitinga* and distinguished from their congeners by the combination of the following characters: plump body, conspicuous proteolytic gland, forebody with scarce vitelline glands, copulatory bursa with a well developed muscular ring (*Ringnapf*), and absence of true neck region in hindbody. Six previously known species are briefly described: *Strigea falconis brasiliiana* Szidat, 1929 (Strigeidae) from *Milvago chimachima* and *Caracara plancus*; *Neodiplostomum travassosi* Dubois, 1937 from *Buteogallus meridionalis*; *Tylodelphys brevis* Drago & Lunaschi, 2008 and *Posthodiplostomum macrocotyle* Dubois, 1937 (Diplostomidae) from *Busarellus nigricollis*; *Spaniometra variolaris* (Fuhrmann, 1904) (Cyclocoelidae) and *Megalophallus deblocki* Kostadinova, Vaucher & Gibson, 2006 (Microphallidae) from *Rostrhamus sociabilis*. Literature records and information on distribution and host-parasite relationships is presented.

Key words: Accipitridae, Falconidae, *Strigea proteolytica* n. sp., Diplostomidae, Cyclocoelidae, Microphallidae

Introduction

Although 55 species of falconiform birds (39 Accipitridae, 15 Falconidae and 1 Pandionidae) inhabit Argentina, the information about their digeneans fauna is scarce. At present, 5 accipitrid species (the savanna hawk, *Buteogallus meridionalis* [Latham]; the great black-hawk, *Buteogallus urubitinga* [Gmelin]; the black-collared hawk, *Busarellus nigricollis* [Latham]; the snail kite, *Rostrhamus sociabilis* [Vieillot] and the roadside hawk, *Rupornis magnirostris* [Gmelin]) and three falconid species (the southern caracara, *Caracara plancus* [Miller]; the yellow-headed caracara, *Milvago chimachima* [Vieillot] and the chimango, *Milvago chimango* [Vieillot]) have been reported as hosts of digeneans. In these hosts primarily have been reported strigeids: *Strigea elliptica* (Brandes) Szidat, 1928, *Strigea falconis brasiliiana* Szidat, 1929, *Strigea magniova* Dubois, 1988, *Strigea meridionalis* Lunaschi & Drago, 2009, *Strigea microbursa* Pearson & Dubois, 1985, *Ophiosoma microcephalum* Szidat, 1928 and *Parastrigea macrobursa* Drago & Lunaschi, 2011. Also, one species of Diplostomidae (*Neodiplostomum travassosi* Dubois, 1937), one of Dicrocoeliidae (*Athesmia heterolecithodes* [Braun, 1899]) and one of Stomylotrematidae (*Stomylotrema vicarium* Braun, 1901) have been recovered (Lunaschi *et al.* 2007; Lunaschi & Drago 2009a, b; Drago & Lunaschi 2011a).

The aim of this paper is to increase the knowledge of the diversity of digenean parasites from falconiform birds from northeastern Argentina.

Material and methods

Twenty-five birds were collected with a shotgun between 2003 and 2012 at La Marcela farm, Pirané, Formosa Province, Argentina (26°17'35"S; 59°06'38"W), with authorization of Ministerio de la Producción, Dirección de

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