

NOTE

Procamallanus (Spirocamallanus) pintoi
(Kohn and Fernandes, 1988) (Nematoda:
Camallanidae) infecting species of
Callichthyidae from the Peruvian Amazon

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Abstract

In South America, *Procamallanus (Spirocamallanus) pintoi* (Kohn and Fernandes, 1988) has been identified parasitising species of *Corydoras* Lacépède, 1803 causing various damage and in some cases the death of fish. The present study reports the infection of this nematode in six species of Callichthyidae collected in the Peruvian Amazon.

Aquarium-reared ornamental fishes are frequently infected with introduced helminth parasites (in addition to others) that may be the cause of a high mortality of subsequently infected fishes. For example, camallanids (e.g., *Camallanus* spp. and *Procamallanus* spp.) have been reported as responsible of sanitary problems in different fish species (Moravec, 1998). In South America, 25 species of the genus *Procamallanus* Baylis, 1923 (*Spirocamallanus* Olsen, 1952) have been identified parasitising freshwater fishes. *Procamallanus (Spirocamallanus) pintoi* (Kohn and Fernandes, 1988) is a specific parasite of callichthyid armoured catfishes of the genus *Corydoras* Lacépède, 1803 (Moravec et al., 1999). This parasite was described from *Corydoras paleatus* (Jenyns, 1842) collected in the River Paraná, Brazil (Kohn and Fernandes,

1988). Moravec et al. (1999) found *P. (S.) pintoi* in specimens of *Corydoras reticulatus* Fraser-Brunner, 1938 exported from Peru to Germany, representing the only record of this parasite infecting a fish from Peru. In this study, we identified *P. (S.) pintoi* infecting six species of Callichthyidae from the Peruvian Amazon and we evaluated their parasitological indices.

The present study was conducted in the laboratory of Hydrobiology of the Universidad Nacional de la Amazonía Peruana located in Iquitos, Peru. Fish were collected by local fishermen of the Municipality of Belén in the city of Iquitos. Two-hundred callichthyids (20 individuals per species) were analysed: *Brochis multiradiatus* (Orcés V, 1960); *Corydoras arcuatus* Elwin, 1938; *Corydoras blochi* Nijssen, 1971; *Corydoras*

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