

Parasites in gills of *Cichla monoculus* (Cichlidae) from the Jari River, a tributary of the Amazon River northern Brazil

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The Jari River has its source in the Tumucumaque Mountains Park and flows into the Amazon River, south of the state of Amapá in Brazil. *Cichla monoculus*, popularly known as tucanare peacock bass is a carnivorous cichlid of great importance at commercial and subsistence fishing for Amazonian riverine populations. However, little is known about the parasitic fauna of this fish in the Amazon River basin. The aim of this study was to investigate the fauna of metazoan parasites in *C. monoculus* gills from the Jari River, a tributary of Amazon River northern Brazil. In March 2015, 32 specimens of *C. monoculus* were collected with gill net in the lower Jari River (1° 7'39.48" S; 51°59'43.94" W) for parasitological analyses. Standard length (28.1 ± 4.3 cm) and total weight (646.0 ± 272.5 g) were measured. Gills of each fish were removed and fixed in formalin 5% for analysis in laboratory. The prevalence (P), mean intensity (MI), mean abundance (MA) and total number of parasites (TNP) were determined. The dispersion index (ID) and discrepancy (D) were calculated to detect the distribution pattern of the parasites for species with prevalence > 10%. The significance of the (ID) for each infracommunity was tested using the *d*-statistic. All specimens of *C. monoculus* (100%) were parasitized and a total of 346 parasites were collected. Such parasites belong to following taxa: *Excorallana berbicensis* (P = 3.1%, MI = 3.0, MA = 0.1, TNP = 3), *Ergasilus coatiarus* (P = 78.1%, MI = 3.8, MA = 3.0, TNP = 96), Lernaecidae gen. sp. (P = 3.1%, MI = 1.0, MA = 0.03, TNP = 1) and *Argulus* sp. (P = 15.6%, MI = 1.8, MA = 0.3, TNP = 9) (Crustacea), *Clinostomum marginatum* (P % = 34.4, MI = 2.0, MA = 0.7, TNP = 22) and *Posthodiplostomum* sp. (P = 81.3%, MI = 6.5, MA = 5.3, TNP = 170) (Digenea) and Acari (P = 25.0%, MI = 5.6, MA = 1.4, TNP = 45). The greatest abundance was metacercariae of *Posthodiplostomum* sp. and parasites had an aggregate distribution pattern, common for freshwater fish. There was predominance of fish harboring 2 to 3 species of parasites. This is first study on the parasitic fauna for *C. monoculus* from the Jari River and the first record of these parasites for this host.

Keywords: Ectoparasites, Tucunaré, Amazon.