

## BLOOD SUPPLY OF THE ADRENAL GLANDS OF NUTRIA (*Myocastor coypus* - RODENTIA: MAMMALIA)

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The Capromyidae family is represented in the Brazilian fauna by only one specie, the *Myocastor coypus*. It is a large rodent (70-100 cm; 7-9 Kg), original from South America, known as nutria, whose meat is appreciated in several parts of the world. This rodent was taken to the USA and Europe, where it is explored by commercial breeders. In spite of the interest in this rodent, there is scarce information on its biology and almost no detailed references on its morphology. The present research work aims to show specific data on the vascular aspects of the adrenal glands of this specie. Six adult animals, four males and two females, from different proveniences, after natural death, were injected the arterial system, through the common carotid artery, with a colored solution of Neoprene latex. For this purpose, syringes and moderate handy pressure were used up to the total repletion of that system. Soon after, the animals were fixed in 10% formalin aqueous solution and dissected beginning by the removal of the left wall of the abdomen and by the manipulation of the abdominal visceras. Following the location of the adrenal glands, care has been taken in order to proceed towards the identification, by careful dissection, of the arterial branches that provide the blood supply of those glands. It has been found that: a) the adrenal glands of nutria displays a large volume, especially the left one, comming to about a third of the volume of the ipsilateral kidney; they are asymmetric with relation to the form and position, being the left gland in bean form, more voluminous and caudal than the right one. The right gland, on its turn, is triangular in shape, less voluminous and more cranial than the left one; b) the left adrenal gland receives directly two to five arterial branches from the aorta and from the left renal artery; could receive arterial branches originating from the cranial abdominal artery; c) the right adrenal gland receives one to four arterial branches, coming from the aorta, from the right renal artery, from the celiac trunk and from the caudal frenic artery, with predominance of the first two origins.

**Key Words:** Anatomy, blood supply, adrenal glands, Nutria.