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MUSCULAR ANATOMY OF THE THORAX AND THORACIC LIMB OF Caiman Crocodilus (LINNAEUS, 1758) (CROCODYLIA: ALLIGATORIDAE) BY MEANS OF DIGITAL DISSECTION AND THREE-DIMENSIONAL MODELS.

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ABSTRACT

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The *Caiman crocodilus*, popularly known as *alligator*, is a species of crocodilian, which has a crest or "forehead" described as "in crescent shape", observed, immediately, dorsal in relation to the eyes, as well as above the dorsal region of the snout, with an ossified crust rostral to the orbicular region. The present study aimed to describe the muscular anatomy of the thorax with emphasis on the thoracoappendicular muscles, and *Caiman crocodilus* thoracic limb, with the aid of X-Ray (RX), Ultrasonography (US), and detailed manual dissection; identified the thickness of the muscle groups of the thorax and thoracic limb of the *Caiman crocodilus*, through Ultrasonography, and, at the end, three-dimensional models of the muscular anatomy of the thoracic limb of the *Caiman crocodilus*, with finalization in three-dimensional PDF. Anatomical descriptions have greatly favored interventions in wild animals, as well as the use of imaging tests such as X-ray and US. In addition, 3D schematic models clarify topographical relationships and highlight muscle depth, for example. In this way, it is possible to identify anatomical differences and intervene in case of diagnoses and prognoses, such as in US, even in real time.

Keywords: Jacaretinga, Anatomy, Muscles.

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INTRODUCTION

The *Caiman crocodilus*, popularly known as *alligator*, is a species of crocodilian, which has a crest or "forehead" described as "in crescent shape", observed, immediately, dorsal in relation to the eyes, as well as above the dorsal region of the snout, with an ossified crust rostral to the orbicular region. Younger specimens have a yellow coloration, with black spots on the lateral regions throughout the entire body, however, the adult animals evolve to a dark olive color, measuring up to 2.8m in length (Mendonça & Coutinho, 2010). The main impacts related to anthropic interventions are the creation of dams, deforestation, and hunting (Da Silveira and Thorbjarnarson 1999; Campos 2003; Combrink et al. 2017).

Research on the morphological and locomotor aspects of crocodilians require specific knowledge of the appendicular anatomy, as it is directly articulated with the axial part. It is a question of recognizing that crocodilians have different forms of displacement, and, therefore, different postures between slips and gallops. The anatomical and functional particularities of muscles, for example, as well as the locomotion itself, have been widely used in muscle reconstructions of fossil dinosaurs (Klinkhamer et. al. 2017).

Considering the phylogenesis of reptiles, as well as their differentiated morphology, in relation to other species, it is considered relevant to carry out morphofunctional descriptions of this class of tetrapod and ectodermal vertebrates. The muscular anatomy of crocodilians correlated to their functional aspects can contribute, both to conservation projects, and to preventive medicine, therapy, and handling of these animals, by expanding the specific knowledge base of the specimens. Also, it can be very useful in the reconstruction of fossils and/or dinosaurs.

Above all, crocodilians represent the most abundant carnivorous vertebrates, which are found in tropical and humid places. Thus, knowing the morphological pattern becomes relevant, with an emphasis on conservationist definitions, including rescue units (Da Silveira et a*l.* 2011; Xisto 2018).

The present study has aimed to describe the muscular anatomy of the thorax, with emphasis on the thoracoappendicular muscles and thoracic limb of the *Caiman crocodilus*, through digital dissection and three-dimensional models, as well as it has specifically aimed to describe the muscular anatomy of the thorax with emphasis in the



thoracoappendicular muscles, and *Caiman crocodilus* thoracic limb, with the aid of X-Ray (RX), Ultrasonography (US), and detailed manual dissection; identified the thickness of the muscle groups of the thorax and thoracic limb of the *Caiman crocodilus* through Ultrasonography, and, in the end, three-dimensional models of the muscular anatomy of the thorax were constructed, with emphasis on the thoracoappendicular muscles, and the thoracic limb of the *Caiman crocodilus*, and the

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study was previously submitted to the Research Ethics Committee of the University Center of Patos de Minas, through the platform CEUA/UNIPAM (Committee in Ethics in the Use of Animals), being approved under protocol number 69/20. It is a descriptive and topographic field research. The chest muscle identification with emphasis on the thoracoappendicular muscles, and thoracic limb of the *Caiman crocodilus* was performed through digital and manual dissection, to contribute to the construction of 3D models, and finalization in three-dimensional PDF.

Five specimens of *Caiman crocodilus* belonging to the teaching collection of the Laboratory of Teaching and Research in Wild Animals (LAPAS), of the Federal University of Uberlândia (UFU), adult males, measuring an average of 1.50 m in length, were used.

Digital dissection was performed using X-Ray (RX) and Ultrasonography (US). RX allowed the visualization of bones, while US provided data on muscle groups. The animals were preserved in a 10% formaldehyde solution for detailed manual dissection.

The analyzes of muscle thicknesses at US were described in centimeters, with priority being given to the total thickness of the muscle groups (Vieira et. al. 2020; Mendes et. al. 2015), with an emphasis on the right antimere, for the presentation of data related to the results.

RX and US data were superimposed, as well as compared with detailed manual dissection, for better definition of the muscles, and of the fixation points of origin and insertion. Digital dissection performed on the thorax and thoracic limb of *Caiman crocodilus* contributed to the construction of three-dimensional schematic muscle models, and finalization with three-dimensional PDF (Cartwright et. al. 2013; Vieira et. al. 2020).

MUSCULAR ANATOMY OF THE THORAX AND THORACIC LIMB OF Caiman Crocodilus (LINNAEUS, 1758) (CROCODYLIA: ALLIGATORIDAE) BY MEANS OF DIGITAL DISSECTION AND THREE-DIMENSIONAL MODELS. Romão e Santos.

Detailed manual dissection of the thorax with emphasis on thoracoappendicular muscles and thoracic limb was performed on five specimens of *Caiman crocodilus*. It is considered that the combination of digital dissection with manual dissection increases the accuracy of specific structural identifications. The identification of soft tissues, and especially muscles, started in the superficial structures, until the deepest stratification. The muscle identification reference as well as the directional orientation terminology were based on publications of specimens and similar species (Klinkhamer et. al. 2017).

The data from the detailed manual dissection, as well as the digital dissections (RX and US) were superimposed and combined, to ensure with greater accuracy the individualization and identification of muscle structures, as well as their fixation points of origin and insertion. In this perspective, the muscles were edited in the professional modeling software *ZBrush* 2019 for *Mac*, and analyzed in groups, with emphasis, their motor agents. In this context, the topography was considered, as well as the relationships with the bones, mainly based on detailed manual dissection. Muscles were assigned different hues to differentiate identification and visualization in 3D transposition, and the final configuration was converted into a three-dimensional PDF file (Klinkhamer et. al. 2017).

RESULTS

1. DIGITAL DISSECTION

1.1 X-Ray

Chest X-ray was taken on the ventrodorsal and dorsoventral axis. The bone structures of the pectoral girdle and thoracic limb were identified, as well as the borderline terms considered for descriptions, as shown in **Figure 1**, with emphasis on the right antimere.





Fig. 1: X-Ray of the Chest, and thoracic limbs of *Caiman crocodilus*, with directional or borderline indications. **A:** Right thoracic limb (medial view): borderline indication - medial and lateral; and right hemithorax, with borderline indication - cranial, ventral and caudal. **B:** Ventrodorsal chest and thoracic limbs, with emphasis on the right antimere. **C:** Dorsoventral chest and thoracic limbs, with emphasis on the right antimere – Co: coracoid; Sc: scapula; Hu: humerus; Ra: radio; UI: ulna. * *ScaleBar* = 3cm.

1.2 Ultrasound

The ultrasonography was performed on the chest in a ventral and dorsal view, as well as on the thoracic limb (arm and forearm), in a medial and lateral view, with a proximal and distal focus, both on the arm and on the forearm, as shown in **Figure 2**.



Fig. 2: Ultrasound of the chest and forelimbs of *Caiman crocodiles* of *Caiman crocodiles*, with emphasis on the right antimere. A: Ventral chest. B: Dorsal chest. C: Proximal right thoracic limb (arm) (medial view). D: Distal right thoracic limb (forearm) (medial view). E: Member thoracic right proximal (upper arm) (side view). F: Distal right thoracic limb (forearm) (lateral view). * *ScaleBar* = 3cm.

The average thickness of the Thorax muscle groups, with emphasis on the right antimere, was 0.98 cm in the ventral region and 1.01 cm in the dorsal region. In the right thoracic limb, medially, the average thickness was 0.90 cm proximally and 1.02 cm distally, respectively. Laterally, the average thickness was 1.12 cm proximally and 1.04 cm distally.

In the chest, in ventral view, the (+) muscle thickness measurement flag indicates in **Figure 2A**, the superficial and deep pectoral muscles, and, in dorsal view, in **Figure 2B**, the (+) muscle thickness measurement flag indicates the trapezius muscle, levator scapula, and dorsal muscles.

In the thoracic limb, the muscle thickness measurement flag (+) indicates in Figure 2C and D, the flexor muscle group, as well as, in Figure 2E and F, the extensor muscle group.

2. MANUAL DISSECTION

The muscles of the chest, pectoral girdle, and thoracic limb of the *Caiman crocodilus* are shown, considering the lateral and medial muscles of the arm, as well as the lateral and medial muscles of the forearm, as shown in **Figure 3**, with emphasis on the right antimere.



Fig. 3: A: Ventral photograph of the chest, pectoral girdle, and medial of the thoracic limb of *Caiman crocodilus,* with emphasis on the right antimere. SA: sternoatlantical; DPE: deep pectoral; SPE: superficial pectoral; VCB: ventral coracobrachialis; SCL: supracoracoid long; DCB: dorsal coracobrachialis; BI: biceps; BR: brachial; RH: radial humerus; LLT: long lateral triceps; SU: supinator; RP: round pronator; FDL: flexor digitorum longus; ELR: extensor digitorum longus radial; UE: ulnar extensor of the fingers. **B: Dorsal photograph of the chest, pectoral girdle, and lateral of the thoracic limb of** *Caiman crocodilus,* with emphasis on the right antimere. SE: scapula elevator; TR: trapezius; DM: dorsal muscles; DCB: dorsal coracobrachialis; PSD: proximal scapular deltoid, DSD: distal scapular deltoid; RM: round major; LD: latissimus dorsi; BI: biceps brachii; BR: brachial; RH: radial humerus; LLT: long lateral triceps; LMT: long medial triceps; SCT: short cranial triceps; UE: ulnar extensor of the fingers; UF: ulnar flexor of the fingers; ELR: extensor digitorum longus radial; SU: supinator; PR: pronator round. * *ScaleBar* = 3cm.

The identification and indication of fixation points of origins, insertions and muscular actions of the thorax and thoracic limb of the *Caiman crocodilus* is shown in **Tables 1, 2, 3, 4**,

5, 6, 7, and 8.

Table 1. Origin, insertion and action of the superficial dorsal muscles of the pectoral girdle ofthe Caiman crocodilus.

MUSCLE	SOURCE	INSERTION	ACTION
trapezius	thoracodorsal fascia cranial to the humerus (cervical and	cranial margin of the scapula	cranial protraction and
	thoracic segment)		scapula
Great Back	thoracodorsal fascia (continuous with trapezius)	distal to the proximal articular surface of the humerus, cranial to the triceps short intermediate	extension, retraction and elevation of the humerus
levator	cervical level, perpendicular to	cranial and distal margin	cranial rotation of
scapula	the dorsal scapular deltoid	of the scapula	the scapula

Table 2. Origin, insertion and action of the deep dorsal muscles of the pectoral girdle of *Caiman crocodilus*.



MUSCULAR ANATOMY OF THE THORAX AND THORACIC LIMB OF Caiman Crocodilus (LINNAEUS, 1758) (CROCODYLIA: ALLIGATORIDAE) BY MEANS OF DIGITAL DISSECTION AND THREE-DIMENSIONAL MODELS. Romão e Santos.

MUSCLE	SOURCE	INSERTION	ACTION
Deltoid	proximal surface of	caudal to the vertex of the	humeral
proximal	the cranial margin of	deltoid crest of the humerus	abduction,
scapular	the scapula		shoulder
			stabilization
Bigger	caudal and distal	distal to the proximal articular	humerus
round	surface of the	surface of the humerus	elevation, and
	scapula		shoulder flexion
Deltoid	cranial and distal	caudal to the vertex of the	shoulder
distal	surface of the	humerus deltoid crest	extension
scapular	scapula	(superimposed,	
		perpendicularly, to the	
		insertion of the proximal	
		scapular deltoid)	
humeral	proximal surface of	caudal to insertion of	elevation,
scapula	the caudal edge of	latissimus dorsi and teres	protraction and
	the scapula	major	stabilization of
			the humerus

Table 3. Origin, insertion and action of superficial ventral muscles of the pectoral girdle of *Caiman crocodilus*.

MUSCLE	SOURCE	INSERTION	ACTION
superficial	superficial sternal	caudal to the biceps in its	shoulder
chest	margin	proximal portion	adduction and
			retraction
deep chest	deep sternal	caudal to the biceps in its	shoulder
	margin	proximal portion	adduction and
			retraction
sterno-	first and second	middle insertion on the	scapula
atlantic	cervical ribs	cartilaginous margin of the	stabilization
		sternum, between the origins	
		of the pectoral muscles:	
		superficial and deep	
superficial	deep sternal	caudal margin, along the	caudal rotation of
costocoracoid	margin	ventral surface of the coracoid	the pectoral girdle,
			retraction of the
			coracoid or pectoral
			girdle
Long	proximal ventral	distal to the proximal articular	shoulder extension
Supracoracoid	projection of the	surface of the humerus,	
	coracoid	considering the insertion	



position of the intermediate and short supracoracoid

Table 4. Origin, insertion and action of the deep ventral muscles of the pectoral girdle

of Caiman crocodilus.

MUSCLE	SOURCE	INSERTION	ACTION
ventral serratus	ribs in ventral and	middle and posterior margin of	pectoral
	lateral location,	the scapula	girdle
	immediately deep to		extension
	the deep pectoralis		
	muscle		
deep	dorsal sternal margin	caudal margin, in the proximal	caudal
costocoracoid		ventral projection of the	rotation of
		coracoid	the pectoral
			girdle
Intermediate	proximal and ventral	average in relation to the	shoulder
costocoracoid	projection of the	proximal articular surface of	extension
	coracoid, deep to the	the humerus, between the	
	long supracoracoid	insertion of the long and short	
		supracoracoid	
Short	superimposed on the	proximal to the proximal	shoulder
Supracoracoid	scapulocoracoid	articular surface of the	extension,
	junction, lateral to the	humerus	and thoracic
	intermediate		limb
	supracoracoid		adduction
Short ventral	proximal to the sternal	central middle surface of the	shoulder
coracobrachialis	margin, along the	proximal humeral epiphysis,	flexion and
	coracoid process	in a wide area, cranial to the	retraction
		deltoid crest	
Short dorsal	proximal and middle	proximal to the proximal	shoulder
coracobrachialis	surface of the scapula	articular surface of the	stabilization,
		humerus, cranial to the	protraction
		insertion of the ventral	and flexion of
		coracobrachialis, and to the	the
		deltoid crest	thoracic
			member
subscapular	ventral surface of the	bulge of the proximal articular	shoulder
	scapula	surface of the humerus	stabilization

Table 5. Origin, insertion and action of the lateral brachial muscles of the Caiman crocodilus.



MUSCLE	SOURCE	INSERTION	ACTION
long lateral	proximal, on the caudal margin of the	olecranon	shoulder flexion,
triceps	scapula		elbow extension
Short cranial	in elongated projection, on the proximal	olecranon	elbow extension
triceps	epiphysis of the humerus, up to the limit		
	with the short intermediate triceps		
Intermediate	proximal to the articular surface of the	olecranon	elbow extension
short	humerus, along the diaphysis of the		
triceps	humerus, cranial to the short caudal triceps		

Table 6. Origin, insertion and action of the medial brachial muscles of the Caiman crocodilus

MUSCLE	SOURCE	INSERTION	ACTION
Long	medium on the caudal margin of the	olecranon	shoulder flexion,
medial	scapula with double tendon fixation,		forearm extension
triceps	and proximal on the caudal margin of		
	the coracoid		
short tail	distal to the proximal articular	olecranon	forearm extension
triceps	surface of the humerus, along the		
	medial shaft of the humerus		
brachial	proximal projection of the cranial	radial	shoulder extension
biceps	margin of the coracoid	tuberosity	and forearm flexion
brachial	diaphysis of the humerus, in an	distal to the	forearm flexion
	elongated surface, cranial to the	radial	
	biceps and caudal to the	tuberosity	
	humeroradial		
Radial	proximal to articular surface proximal	radial	forearm flexion
humerus	to humerus, cranial to brachial	tuberosity	

Table 7. Origin, insertion and action of the lateral muscles of the forearm – craniocaudal direction of *Caiman crocodilus*.

MUSCLE	SOURCE	INSERTION	ACTION
Supinator	cranial epicondyle of the humerus	cranial diaphysis of the radius	forearm supination and flexion



MUSCULAR ANATOMY OF THE THORAX AND THORACIC LIMB OF Caiman Crocodilus (LINNAEUS, 1758) (CROCODYLIA: ALLIGATORIDAE) BY MEANS OF DIGITAL DISSECTION AND THREE-DIMENSIONAL MODELS. Romão e Santos.

Long Carpal	cranial epicondyle	proximal dorsal edge of	wrist extension, flexion
	of the numerus	the facial carpai bone	humeroradial joint
Ulnar Long Carpal Extender	cranial epicondyle of the humerus	ll metacarpal	wrist extension
Ulnar flexor	cranial epicondyle of the humerus	caudal diaphysis of the ulna	forearm flexion, and postural stabilization
Radial abductor	cranial epicondyle of the humerus	superimposed on the humeroradial joint	extension of the carpus and adduction of the fingers
Short radial carpal extender	Radial head: distal to the radius diaphysis Ulnar head: along the diaphysis, medial ulnar	Radial head: superimposed on the radiocarpal joint Ulnar head: superimposed on the radiocarpal joint	wrist extension and finger adduction

Table 8. Origin, insertion and action of the Medial Forearm Muscles – craniocaudal directionof Caiman crocodilus.

MUSCLE	SOURCE	INSERTION	ACTION
Round pronator	caudal epicondyle of the humerus	tail shaft of the radius	forearm pronation, and radiohumeral joint flexion
Ulnar flexor of the carpus	caudal epicondyle of the humerus	pisiform bone prominence	flexion and abduction of the carpus, stabilization of the forearm
Long finger flexor (humeral head, ulnar)	caudal epicondyle of the humerus; and ulna shaft	central flexor tendon, proximal to the carpus on the middle palmar surface	finger flexion
Square pronator	along the cranial diaphysis of the ulna	along the radial shaft of the radius, in an area interspersed with the pronator teres	forearm pronation and stabilization

3. 3D PDF SCHEMATIC MODELS (ZBRUSH 2019 FOR MAC)

The *Caiman crocodilus* Thorax, pectoral girdle, and thoracic limb muscles, with emphasis on the right antimere, were edited in the professional modeling software *ZBrush* 2019 for *Mac*, and analyzed in groups, with an emphasis on the right antimere. In this context, the topography was considered, as well as the relationships with the bones, based on detailed digital and manual dissection. Different shades were used to highlight the stratification of the muscles and differentiate them, as shown in **Figures 4 and 5.** In addition, a realistic 2D manual representation of the muscles of the Chest, pectoral girdle and thoracic limb of the *Caiman crocodilus* was made, with an emphasis on the right antimere, demonstrated in transposition with the schematic models in 3D PDF.



Fig. 4: A: Realistic 2D representations, and 3D PDF Schematic Models, of the Chest (*ZBrush* 2019 for *Mac*) and thoracic limb of the *Caiman crocodilus*, with emphasis on the right antimere. A: Realistic 2D representation - Ventral superficial view of the Thorax and thoracic limb of *Caiman crocodilus* (right antimere) (Teixeira, 2021); B: Schematic 3D PDF model - Superficial and deep ventral view of the Thorax and proximal thoracic limb (arm) of the *Caiman crocodilus* (right antimer). SA: sternoatlantical; DPE: deep pectoral; SPE: superficial pectoral; VCB: ventral coracobrachialis; LSC: long supracoracoid; DCB: dorsal coracobrachialis; ISC: intermediate supracoracoid; SSC: short supracoracoid. C: Deep ventral view of the thoracic limb of *Caiman crocodilus* (right antimere). DPE: deep pectoral; SV: serratus ventral; SCT: superficial costocoracoid; DCT: deep costocoracoid C: 3D PDF schematic model - Deep ventral view of the chest. D: Realistic representation in 2D - Superficial dorsal view of the Thorax and thoracic limb of the Thorax and thoracic limb of the Caiman crocodilus (right antimere) (Teixeira, 2021). E: B: 3D PDF Schematic Model - Superficial and Deep Dorsal View of Thorax and Thoracic Limb of the *Caiman crocodilus* (right antimere): DCB:



dorsal coracobrachialis; PSD: proximal scapular deltoid; DSD: distal scapular deltoid; SE: scapula elevator; TR: trapezius; RM: round major; LD: latissimus dorsi; MD: dorsal muscles. *ScaleBar = 3cm.



Fig. 5: Schematic 3D PDF model (*ZBrush* **2019 for** *Mac***) of the flexor and extensor muscles of the proximal (arm) and distal (forearm) thoracic limb of the** *Caiman crocodilus,* with **emphasis on the right antimere.** SH: scapulohumeral; BI: biceps brachii; BR: brachial; RH: radial humerus; LLT: long lateral triceps; LMT: long medial triceps; SCT: short cranial triceps; T: muscle tendon; FDL: flexor digitorum longus; PR: pronator round; ELR: extensor digitorum longus radial; EBR: extensor digitorum brevis radial; RAB: radial abductor; SP: square pronator; UE: ulnar extensor; UF: ulnar flexor. * *ScaleBar* = 3cm.

DISCUSSION

Differences in muscle anatomy are frequently found, and may represent important characteristics for certain actions and/or behaviors. The profile of the differences may indicate a simple variation, supernumerary structures or abnormal deviations, and also anomalous conditions, such as absent muscle bellies, poorly or highly developed, or differences in the areas of fixation of origin and insertion. Muscles identified as accessory or additional are considered anatomical variations. With the technology advancement, imaging diagnostics, as well as innovative equipment, are particularly capable of displaying highquality sectioned images, as seen in computed tomography and ultrasonography. With the aid of images, analyzes and studies on muscle anatomy can be evidenced more precisely, in view of the distinction and correlation of soft tissues (Nascimento and Ruiz 2018).

Technological progress favors both evolution and the use of imaging as a way to make diagnoses. It is scientific proof about higher and better resolutions, enabling increasingly

detailed analyses. A great advantage of ultrasound is that it does not represent a bodily "invasion", especially in structural observations, and complementary in clinical examinations (Yamada et al. 2009; Barcelos et al. 2012; Bellegard 2016).

The X-ray represents a resource considered essential for clinical interventions, considering its practical feasibility and agility in clarifying clinical situations. In addition, it represents the "gold standard", signaling the initial option of analysis, regarding the costbenefit itself. In relation to crocodilians, radiography is very similar to what is observed in lizards. In a dorsoventral view, for example, foreign bodies are clearly identified, as well as aspects related to intestinal transit, and masses that are in the coelomic cavity. Horizontally, the respiratory system can also be assessed (Thrall 2007; Wisner and Zwingenberger 2015).

Wild animals, such as crocodilians, have many anatomical and physiological particularities, which are still poorly described. This makes the diagnosis and clinical and therapeutic prognosis of these animals difficult. Based on this assumption, imaging techniques, such as ultrasonography, have been very efficient in clinical examinations, mainly due to the ease of carrying out the examination, regardless of specific environments, and low harm to the examiner (Augusto, 2007; Valente, 2007; Bortolini et. al. 2013). Using ultrasound, it is possible to monitor reproductive functions, diagnose anatomical variations and/or anomalies, in addition to measuring tissue thickness, and assist in guided biopsies (Sainsbury and Gili 1991; STETTER 2006; Bortolini et. al. 2013).

In general, the descriptions of the thoracoappendicular anatomy of crocodilians do not show significant differences in relation to what is found in the pelvic region and hind limb. It is a specific locomotor evolutionary pattern of the *Archosauri*. Such differences, when found, have been indicated in the attachment points of muscle origin and insertion, especially in the pelvic limb, which is more requested in actions (Meers 2003; Remes 2008; Hutchinson 2000, 2006).

Digital Dissection is considered a complementary way, both in interpretations and in the analysis of biological systems. In addition, it is a "little" invasive and, therefore, nondestructive way, which favors access to researched data, including in three dimensions. In relation to the muscles, it allows the visualization and identification of the anatomical position and its topographic relationships. However, representations in two dimensions, that is, twodimensional, which have been around for a longer time, tend to simplify or emphasize some



points, privileging them, and, therefore, set precedents for different forms of interpretation (Curtis et. al. 2009; Lautenschlager 2014a). Above all, at any time, a digital anatomical dissection can be re-evaluated and re-examined (Lautenschlager et. al. 2014a; Klinkhamer et. al. 2017).

Several digital dissections of vertebrate animals have been published, mostly with an emphasis on cranial muscles (Miller et. al. 2008; Curtis et. al. 2009; Holliday et. al. 2013; Lautenschlager et. al. 2014b; Sharp and Trusler 2015) with greater adherence to computed tomography, ultrasound, and resonance in cases of using larger specimens (Jeffery et. al. 2011; Sharp and Trusler 2015; Klinkhamer et. al. 2017).

CONCLUSION

Anatomical descriptions have greatly favored interventions in wild animals, as well as the use of imaging tests such as X-ray and US. In addition, 3D schematic models clarify topographical relationships and highlight muscle depth, for example. Thus, it is possible to identify anatomical differences and intervene, in cases of diagnosis and prognosis, such as in US, even in real time.

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