

RESUMO - HELMINTOLOGIA

ENDOPARASITES OF WILD SMALL MAMMALS IN A HYDROELECTRIC-IMPACTED LANDSCAPE OF SANTA CATARINA, BRAZIL

Thayná Fiorentin Moreira (thaynafmoreira@gmail.com)

Thiago Fernandes Martins (thiagodogo@hotmail.com)

Ana Paula Remor Sebolt (anapsebolt@gmail.com)

Anderson Barbosa De Moura (anderson.moura@udesc.br)

Andreas Lazaros Chryssafidis (andreas.ch@udesc.br)

Wild small mammals are important hosts for helminths of veterinary and zoonotic relevance, particularly in anthropized environments where ecological disturbance may influence parasite transmission. This study investigated endoparasites in small wild mammals captured around the “Quebra-Queixo” Hydroelectric Power Plant, western Santa Catarina, Brazil, using complementary coproparasitological and postmortem examination. Between November 2023 and February 2024, 19 animals were captured, including 17 rodents (Rodentia: Cricetidae), one *Didelphis albiventris*, and one *Monodelphis dimidiata*. Fecal samples were analyzed using flotation and sedimentation techniques to detect helminth eggs, while animals that were found dead during the study were necropsied for parasite recovery and assessment of extraintestinal infections.

Coproparasitological examinations revealed eggs morphologically compatible with nematodes of the orders Strongylida, Ascaridida, and Enoplida, indicating circulation of multiple nematode taxa within the host community. Necropsy findings included adult nematodes compatible with Ascaridida in the abdominal cavity and metastrongyloid parasites in the lungs, morphologically consistent with *Angiostrongylus* spp. The detection of both gastrointestinal and tissue-dwelling helminths highlights the complementary role of fecal examination and necropsy, as standard flotation and sedimentation techniques may fail to detect parasites with low egg output or parasites that do not consistently shed diagnostic stages in feces. These findings contribute to the understanding of host–parasite interactions in a hydroelectric-impacted landscape and support the need for integrated surveillance of wildlife helminths at human–animal–environment interfaces.

Palavras-chave: gastrointestinal nematodes; metastrongyloids; fecal egg detection; wildlife health; environmental disturbance.