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MORPHOMETRIC CHARACTERIZATION OF THE *Chordodes brasiliensis* (NEMATOMORPHA) LARVAE IN THE TALA RIVER, CATAMARCA PROVINCE

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The Gordiida (Nematomorpha) are obligate parasites of insects. Adults inhabit permanent and temporary aquatic environments. After mating, the female expels egg strings in the substrate or aquatic vegetation. The aim of this work was the morphometric characterization of the *Chordodes brasiliensis* larvae from the Tala River, Catamarca province. During the autumn adults specimens were collected by hand. In the laboratory, they were placed in tanks waiting for copulation. Subsequently, females were isolated and positive results were obtained during oviposition. Out of a total of 90 larvae the following parameters were taken into account: preseptum length and width, postseptum length and width, pseudointestine length and width, stylet length and width. Preseptum length of this species was 21.45 µ, preseptum width 13.55 µ, postseptum length 21.27 µ, postseptum width 9.04 µ, pseudointestine length 10.47 µ, pseudointestine width 5.72 µ, stylet length 11.8 µ, stylet width 3.86 µ. This paper is the first contribution for *Chordodes brasiliensis* larvae based on morphometric data.

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DESCRIPTION OF LARVAE AND JUVENILE FISHES OF TWO SPECIES OF THE RINELORICARIDAE FAMILY FROM THE JURAMENTO RIVER MIDDLE BASIN

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Time and space settings with adequate prey density play a main role in larvae survival and development. Oviposition and rising sites are closely set in freshwater environments. Waterflow ensures egg and larvae dispersion, whose abundance distribution shows a recurrent pattern. Our aim was to report ontogenic stages, time-space distribution and population density of *Ixinandria steinbachi* and *Hypostomus cordovae* found in the middle basin of the Juramento River, Salta province. A total of 16 monthly samplings were performed between 2005 and 2007 in 2m x 50m sites. Sample collection was carried out with thin mesh nets (opening diameters: 1.29 mm; 3.35 mm and 60 µm, dimentions: 0.30m x 0.20m mouth x 0.30m depth), preserved in CO_3Ca-buffered, 4% formaldehyde. Specimens were identified by regressive sequence analysis of developmental stages from known adult forms. *I. steinbachi* showed a limited distribution, found only in sites 1 and 2, defined as high altitude oviposition, feeding, and rising areas. *H. cordovae* had a wider distribution, found at low altitude (sites 2-4, and 6). We report low population density of early developmental stages for each species. Nearness among sites enabled population survival in this small to medium size species that performs local migrations, and that are under selective pressure due to human water management.

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SURVEY OF NEMATOCEROUS DIPTERA FAMILIES OF MEDICAL AND VETERINARY IMPORTANCE IN JUAN B. ALBERDI, TUCUMÁN, ARGENTINA: PRELIMINARY RESULTS

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The order Diptera (Nematocera) is of epidemiological importance worldwide because of the hematophagy of females of several families that act as pathogen vectors. In Argentina, Culicidae (seven genera), Psychodidae (four), Ceratopogonidae (four) are pathogen vectors. The main objective of this work was to conduct a survey of the families of medical and veterinary importance. The specific objective was to recognize the genera involved in the transmission of diseases present in the area. Ten houses were selected based on previous entomological studies. Catches were made for two consecutive days using CDC light minitraps. The most abundant family was Psychodidae (n=9840) [*Migonemyia* (48%), *Nyssomyia* (20%) and *Evandromyia* (2%)], followed by Ceratopogonidae (n=358) [*Forcipomyia* (27%) and *Culicoides* (11%)] and *Culicidae* (n=230) [*Culex* (71%), *Anopheles* (28%) and *Aedes* (1%)]. These are preliminary results; it is important in the future to determine whether there are differences between houses in terms of abundance and their relationship with weather variables. The spatio-temporal studies of these families are the basis to determine their dynamics and distribution throughout the year so as to propose valid tools for their control and prevention.