

# First report of *Artystone trysibia* (Isopoda: Cymothoidae) in *Caquetaia spectabilis* (Cichliformes: Cichlidae)

Primeiro relato de *Artystone trysibia* (Isopoda: Cymothoidae) em *Caquetaia spectabilis* (Cichliformes: Cichlidae)

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## Abstract

The present study provides the first record of an isopod parasite (*Artystone trysibia*) on *Caquetaia spectabilis*, a cichlid from the eastern Amazon collected in the State of Amapá, northern Brazil. In May 2018, specimens of *C. spectabilis* were collected in the lower Jari River, and 33.3% were parasitized by *A. trysibia* on the tegument tissue between pelvic fins. No hemorrhage or injury signals were observed in the tegument of the host. This study also expanded the distribution of *A. trysibia* to the eastern Amazon.

**Keywords:** Freshwater fish, isopod, Jari river, parasitism, tegumental hole.

## Resumo

O presente estudo fornece o primeiro registro de um isópode parasito (*Artystone trysibia*) em *Caquetaia spectabilis*, um ciclídeo da Amazônia coletado no estado do Amapá, norte do Brasil. Em maio de 2018, espécimes de *C. spectabilis* foram coletados no baixo Rio Jari e 33,3% estavam parasitados por *A. trysibia* dentro do orifício tegumentar localizado na região ventral, entre as nadadeiras pélvicas de *C. spectabilis*. Nenhuma hemorragia ou lesões foram observadas no tegumento dos hospedeiros. Este estudo amplia a distribuição de *A. trysibia* para a Amazônia oriental.

**Palavras-chave:** Peixe de água doce, isópode, Rio Jari, parasitismo, orifício tegumentar.

Crustaceans of the family Cymothoidae Leach, 1818 are obligatory parasite isopods with direct life cycle and are found parasitizing both marine and freshwater fish (TAVARES-DIAS et al., 2015; OLIVEIRA et al., 2017a). These parasites can be found over the tegument, abdominal cavity, gills or in the buccopharyngeal area of the host, but this may vary according to the parasite species or the host species (SMIT et al., 2014; TAVARES-DIAS et al., 2015). However, isopods of the genera *Artystone* Schioedte, 1866 and *Riggia* Szidat, 1948 are tegument punchers of hosts (HUIZINGA, 1972; THATCHER, 2006; ODA et al., 2015).

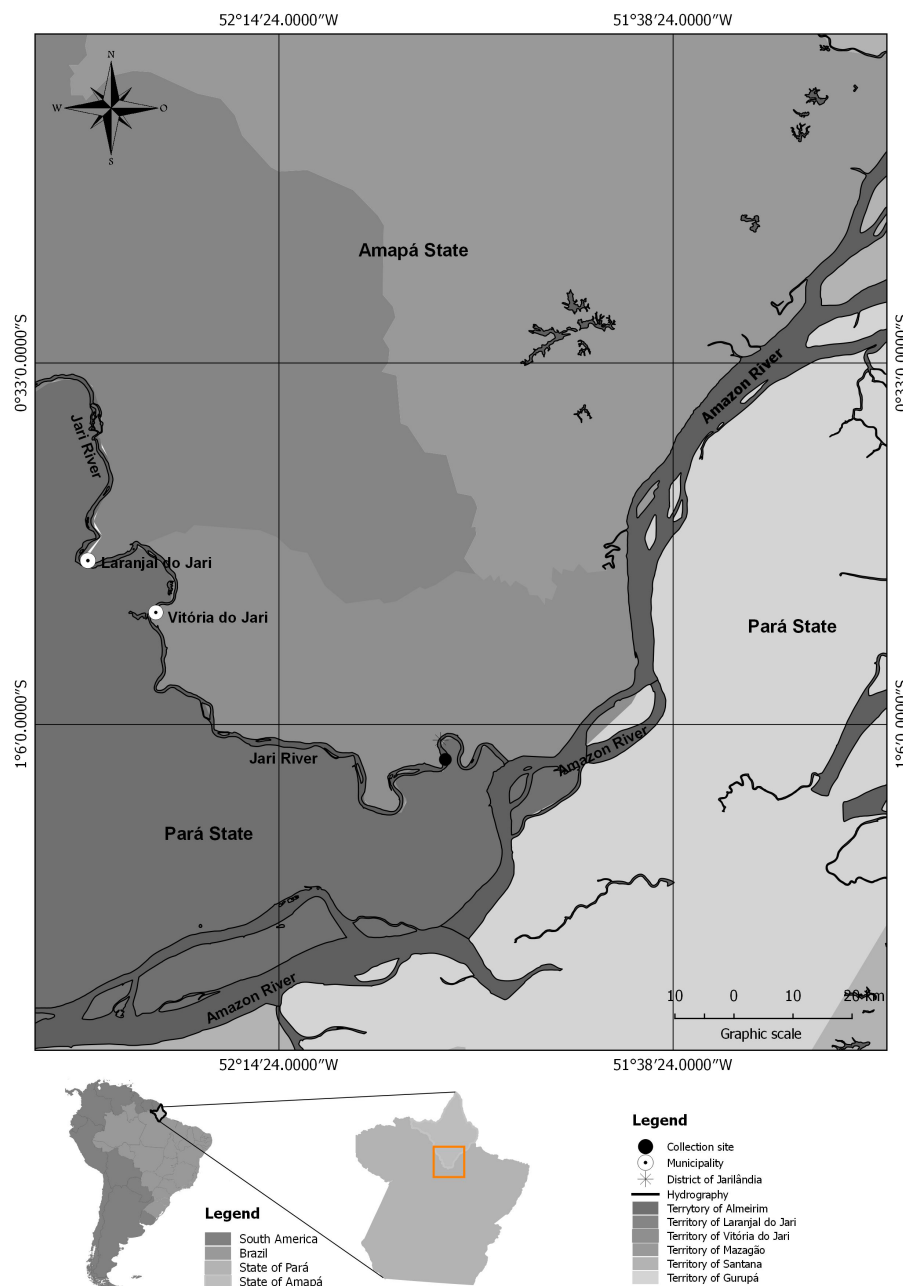
The genus *Artystone* is composed of three species, all originally described parasitizing South American fish, i.e., *Artystone bolivianensis* Thatcher & Schindler, 1999; *Artystone minima* Thatcher & Carvalho, 1988 and *Artystone trysibia* Schioedte, 1866. These species of isopods are recognized by their high pathogenicity, since they penetrate in the host tegument to feed and to live (HUIZINGA, 1972; THATCHER, 2006). Records of the *A. trysibia*, a cymothoid

originally described of a single female specimen collected in the Plata River (Argentina), are more frequent in Cichliformes fish species, but there are also reports of infestation in siluriforms fish species (JUNOY, 2016). This study makes the first record of *A. trysibia* parasitizing *Caquetaia spectabilis* Steindachner, 1875, a cichlid from the Amazon River basin, in Brazil.

Specimens of *C. spectabilis* were collected in May 2018 in the lower Jari River (1°9'19.3"S; 51°59'9.3"W), near to the Jarilândia village, Municipality of Laranjal do Jari, in the State of Amapá, northern Brazil (Figure 1). Fish collected using gillnets (25 m long, 1.5 deep, 30 mm between knots) were measured for total length (cm) and weighed (g). Parasitized fish specimens were euthanized in clove oil solution (10%), while the non-parasitized fish were returned to the river. Parasites found were maintained in ethanol solution (70%) during 24 h, and then preserved in alcohol (70%) and glycerin (10%), for analysis. Host and parasite were identified at the higher taxonomic level according to specific literature (THATCHER, 2006; JUNOY, 2016; QUEIROZ et al., 2013). Specimen of *A. trysibia* was measured on length and width, and dissected in order to get an accurate comparison of morphological

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**Figure 1.** Site of study in the lower Jari River basin, between states of Amapá and Pará, in eastern Amazon, northern Brazil.

features. Mouthparts and appendages were carefully dissected for identification (THATCHER, 2006; JUNOY, 2016).

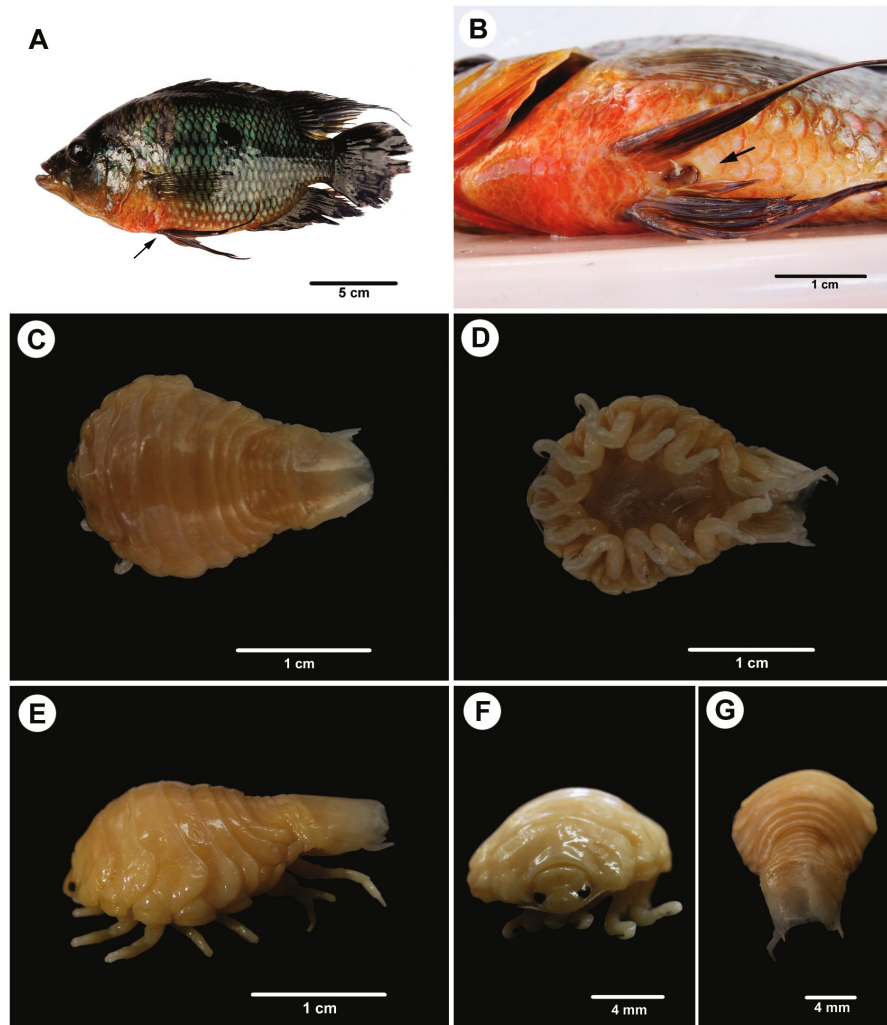
Three specimens of *C. spectabilis*, measuring  $18.6 \pm 0.8$  cm and  $251.7 \pm 28.4$  g (Figure 2A-B) were collected, from those only one specimen was parasitized (33.3%) by one specimen of *A. trysibia* (Figure 2C-G) found inside the tegument between the pelvic fins of the host (Figure 2B). The tegument damage showed a hole about 5 mm diameter and 25 mm deep forming a capsule (Figure 2B). No hemorrhage or internal organ injuries were detected macroscopically in the host.

For the Jari River basin, left-bank tributary of the lower Amazon River has been a total of 11 species of crustaceans parasitizing fish are known (see OLIVEIRA et al., 2017a, b;

GONÇALVES et al., 2018). However, this is the first record of *A. trysibia* for fish of this basin.

Species of *Artystone* are known for perforating the tegument of hosts (HUIZINGA, 1972; THATCHER & SCHINDLER, 1999; JUNOY, 2016). This perforation causes hemorrhages by mechanical mutilation, in addition to necrosis and might cause organ injuries such as the eye loss (HUIZINGA, 1972). However, the penetration of *A. trysibia* in the tegument of *C. spectabilis* did not cause hemorrhage or injury signals in host of this study.

The present study contributes with: (i) distribution expansion of *A. trysibia* to the Jari River basin, in eastern Amazon and (ii) the first report of the occurrence of *A. trysibia* in *C. spectabilis*.



**Figure 2.** *Caquetaia spectabilis* from the eastern Amazon, in Brazil (A). Tegumentar orifice between pelvic fins area of *Caquetaia spectabilis* caused by *Artystone trysibia* (B). *Artystone trysibia* in views dorsal (C), ventral (D), lateral (E), frontal (F) and back (G).

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