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ACANTHOSTOMUM GNERII SZIDAT, 1954 (DIGENEA: CRYPTOOGONIMIDAE) FROM SILVER CATFISH *RHAMDIA QUELEN* (QUOY & GAIMARD, 1824)

ACANTHOSTOMUM GNERII SZIDAT, 1954 (DIGENEA: CRYPTOOGONIMIDAE) DE *RHAMDIA QUELEN* (QUOY & GAIMARD, 1824)

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ABSTRACT

Acanthostomum gnerii is a digenean frequently reported from intestine of Siluriformes and it is well distributed over Central and South America. The aim of this study is to provide additional information on morphological features of *A. gnerii* by histological sections and scanning electron microscopy, as well as to provide comparative measurements of *Acanthostomum* spp. In contrast to previous reports of this helminth in *Rhamdia* sp., specimens in the present study showed two arms in the anterior portion of the body, just after the pharynx. They join and terminate in one lateral pore on the left side of the body similar to that reported in *A. proctophorum* and *A. minimum*. Such morphology was not described as a valid characteristic for Acanthostomidae. This morphological variation could be associated with different populations of the same species. New studies using molecular techniques are recommended to determine if this character corresponds to a diversity of *A. gnerii* found in other fish species.

Keywords: Acanthostominae – Cryptogonimidae – Digenea – histology – parasite – silver catfish