



Three new species of Myxosporea (Bivalvulida: Ceratomyxidae: Alatasporidae) from the gall bladders of anglerfishes *Lophius* spp. (Teleostei: Lophiidae) in the Northeast Atlantic Ocean

ISABEL AFONSO-DIAS¹, CHAGANTI KALAVATI², KEN MACKENZIE³ & KEVIN S. MACKENZIE⁴

¹Universidade do Algarve, Centro de Ciências do Mar do Algarve, FCMA, Campus de Gambelas, 8005-139 Faro, Portugal.

E-mail: idias@ualg.pt

²Department of Zoology, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam 530 003, Andhra Pradesh, India. E-mail: kalavathic@sancharnet.in

³School of Biological Sciences (Zoology), The University of Aberdeen, Tillydrone Avenue, Aberdeen AB24 2TZ, UK.

E-mail: k.mackenzie@abdn.ac.uk

⁴EM and Imaging Facility, Institute of Medical Sciences, The University of Aberdeen, Foresterhill, Aberdeen AB25 2ZD, UK.

E-mail: k.s.mackenzie@abdn.ac.uk

Abstract

Three new species of myxosporeans are described from the gall bladders of *Lophius piscatorius* L. and *L. budegassa* Spinola. *Ceratomyxa lophii* n. sp. was found in 14 of 42 *L. piscatorius* from two locations to the northwest of Scotland in March 2000. *Alataspora budegassai* n. sp. was found in all eight specimens of *L. budegassa* caught off Algarve in the south of Portugal in June and August 2000. *Pseudalataspora lophii* n. sp. was found in 21 of 48 *L. piscatorius* from six locations to the west and northwest of Scotland in March 2000, March 2004 and October 2004. *Ceratomyxa lophii* n. sp. is one of only a few species of the genus having unequal spore valves, but differs from all the other species in spore dimensions and in the form of the plasmodium. The dimensions of the spore of *Alataspora budegassai* n. sp. are very similar to those of *A. africana* Shulman, Kovaleva & Dubina, 1979, described from a species of perciform fish caught off West Africa, but are markedly different from those of any of the other 15 described species of *Alataspora*. *Pseudalataspora lophii* n. sp. differs from the other 11 species of *Pseudalataspora* described to date in the dimensions of the spore and other features.

Key words: *Ceratomyxa*, *Alataspora*, *Pseudalataspora*

Introduction

Two sympatric species of anglerfish, the white-bellied anglerfish *Lophius piscatorius* L. and the black-bellied anglerfish *L. budegassa* Spinola, occur in the Northeast Atlantic Ocean. The former species has the more northern distribution, from the southwestern Barents Sea to the Mediterranean, while the black anglerfish is distributed from around the British Isles to Senegal. The two species occur together from the British Isles to the Straits of Gibraltar and throughout the Mediterranean and Black Seas (Caruso, 1986). During a study of the parasite faunas of both species (Afonso-Dias & MacKenzie, 2004), three hitherto undescribed species of myxosporean were found in the gall bladders. The three species are described below following the guidelines of Lom & Arthur (1989).