

Two new species of *Myxobolus* (Myxozoa: Myxosporea) parasites of *Barbus callipterus* Boulenger, 1907 (Cyprinidae) and *Oreochromis niloticus* Linnaeus, 1758 (Cichlidae) in Cameroon

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ABSTRACT:

In order to assess the Myxosporeans fauna of Cameroon fresh water fishes so as to find the fight strategies, 655 specimens (350 *Oreochromis niloticus* and 305 *Barbus callipterus*) were sampled in Mapé river (Sanaga basin) and examined. Standard methods were used for the sampling of fishes, conservation and microscopy. Morphometric characteristics of the spores were used for species identification. Two new species belonging to the genus *Myxobolus* Büstchli, 1882 were described namely *Myxobolus tchoumbouei* n. sp in *Barbus callipterus* which formed cysts within various organs (fins, skin and operculum); *Myxobolus mapei* n. sp parasite of kidneys and liver in *Oreochromis niloticus* and *Barbus callipterus*. *Myxobolus tchoumbouei* exhibited very long spores (19.19 x 8.89 µm), pear-shaped with rounded anterior end sometimes flattened. Polar capsules were dissymmetrical. They measured 7.60 x 3.00 µm for the bigger and 7.06 x 2.62 µm for the smaller. *Myxobolus mapei* n. sp had ellipsoidal spores (13.50 x 6.83 µm) with unequal polar capsules. The larger polar capsule (6.44 X 2.88 µm) was about 1.5 times longer than the smaller one (4.13 X 1.61 µm) and filled half of the spiral cavity. The awareness about these parasites is useful to find fighting strategies.

Keywords:

Myxosporeans, *Oreochromis niloticus*, *Barbus callipterus*, *Myxobolus tchoumbouei* n. sp, *Myxobolus mapei* n. sp, Mapé river, Cameroon.