ENTEROBACTERIAL PRESENCE IN CLOACAE OF SCORPION MUD TURTLES (*Kinosternon scorpioides*) BRED IN CAPTIVITY

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The scorpion mud turtle (*Kinosternon scorpioides*) a reptile of the order Chelonii, family Kinosternidae, is one of the Brazilian turtles less known to science. The chelonians can be considered rustic in relation to the incidence of diseases. However, gram-negative bacteria have been related to septicemia occurrence in free-living and captive aquatic chelonians. The aim of this study was to identify microrganisms belonging to the family Enterobacteriaceae occurring in cloacae of scorpion mud turtles kept in captivity. Were analyzed 36 females of scorpion mud turtles, held in the Campo Experimental Emerson Salimos - CEMES/BAGAM (Banco de Germoplasma Animal da Amazônia), located on the Marajó Island, Pará State, Brazil. The samples were harvested, with sterile swabs, directly from the cloacae of the animals, and stored into tubes containing Stuart transport medium. Thereafter, they were properly placed into an isothermal box containing ice and sent to the Laboratório de Tecnologia Biomolecular - LTB/UFPA. The samples were plated on MacConkey agar, subjected to 37°C in bacteriological incubator for 24-48 hours. Simultaneously, duplicate samples were immersed in Rappaport broth for 24 hours, then they were plated on xylose-lysine-desoxycholate agar (XLD) and stored in bacteriological incubators at 42°C for 24-48 hours. After growing, the bacteria were subjected to biochemical tests for identification and classification. Fifty-one bacterial isolates were obtained, including: *Escherichia coli* (19.6%), *Proteus* sp. (19.6%), *Edwardsiella* sp. (11.8%), *Klebsiella* sp. (11.8%), *Enterobacter* sp. (9.8%), *Salmonella* sp. (9.8%), *Citrobacter* sp. (7.8%), *Alcaligenes* sp. (3.9%), *Shigella* sp. (3.9%) and *Providencia* sp. (2.0%). The bacteria of the family Enterobacteriaceae, found in this work, are present in cloacae of the scorpion mud turtles, raised in captivity, especially *E.coli* and *Proteus* sp., which were the most common bacteria, and it is important to note the presence of *Salmonella* sp., representing risk to public health.

Keywords: chelonians, captivity, bacteria, Marajó Island

Financial support: FAPESPA