

Title: FUNGAL CHARACTERIZATION OF THE STOMACH CONTENTS OF *Uca rapax*: A FOCUS ON MONITORING OF DEGRADED MANGROVES AREAS.

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Abstract: The growing pollution in aquatic environments has become one of the main environmental problems of today. Thus, the use of sentinel and bioindicators becomes important to investigate this type of environmental impact in an attempt to prevent the collapse of these ecosystems. Among the most important organisms used in environmental monitoring, crustaceans are noteworthy and, among these, the crabs of *Uca* gender are promising, mainly present themselves globally distributed. View of the above this study aimed to analyze the fungal diversity of the stomach contents of *U. rapax*, the sediment of the woodwork these animals, water of the Acaraú River and *Rhizophora mangle* roots, located near the burrows of these crustaceans, collected in mangrove areas of Acaraú River, in the city of Acaraú – Ceará, under different levels of anthropogenic disturbance. Therefore, we collected 20 specimens of crabs in three areas of mangrove on the Acaraú River, the first area located near the port area, the second near the shrimp farms and the third with low human disturbance, far 11 km from the city center. Collections were carried out in the months of September and November 2014 and January and May 2015. The samples were transported to the Environmental Biology Laboratory and Microbiology - LABIAM, the Federal Institute of Ceará. For microbiological procedure all samples were inoculated on Sabouraud agar with chloramphenicol (0.5 g / L). The identification was performed by macro and micromorphological analyzes and biochemical features. Thus were isolated 10, 20, and 11 filamentous fungi and 2, 6:07 yeast of *R. mangle*, the *U. rapax* and crab burrows, respectively and only 9 filamentous fungi to water samples, totaling 65 isolates. Among the isolated there are specimens of the genus *Penicillium*, *Hortaea*, *Candida*, *Curvularia*, *Cladosporium*, *Aspergillus*, *Trichosporon* and *Microsporium*. Thus, it is suggested that each room has a specific fungal diversity, which necessitates further study in this area, so as to prove such diversity to evaluate and monitor areas with anthropogenic effects.

Keyword: yeasts, bio-indicators, *Candida* sp, filamentous fungi.