

## Centro de Ecología Aplicada del Litoral

Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas

Ruta Provincial N° 5 km 2.5, Corrientes, Argentina.

<http://www.cecoal-conicet.gov.ar>

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Dear Editor in chief

Revista de Biología Tropical,

Here we are attaching the manuscript entitled: “**Larval trematodes of Strigeidae and Diplostomidae parasitizing *Biomphalaria straminea* (Planorbidae) in a rice field from northeastern Argentina**” by María Virginia Fernández and Monika Inés Hamann to be considered for publication in the Revista de Biología Tropical. The manuscript is original, has not been submitted or accepted for publication elsewhere and meet your ethical requirements. All authors agree with its publication and with to pay excess page fee charges if required.

This study is important to tropical biology and conservation because presents descriptions, illustrations and photographs of three new species of larval trematodes that parasitize molluscs of medical importance (*Biomphalaria straminea*) in a ricefield. These agroecosystems act as temporary artificial wetlands (Ramsar Convention 2011; <http://www.ramsar.org>) and it is within the researches promoted by the Ramsar Convention, given the progress of these agricultural systems worldwide. In the Neotropical region, the biodiversity of ricefield irrigation canals has been the subject of several studies, including one focused on planorbid biodiversity in Argentina. However, little is known about the larval trematodes that infect mollusks in these temporary artificial wetlands. The fact that the presence of larval trematodes provides indirect information about occurrence of their hosts highlights the importance of their study to contribute to the knowledge of the biodiversity of these environments. The results of this work transcend local interest because increases the diversity of larval stages known, as main original contribution to the scientific community; including new records for South America: *Furcocercaria* XX as the first larval trematode related to genus *Parastrigea*, and *Furcocercaria* XIX as the second larval trematode related to genus *Hysteromorpha*. Furthermore, *Furcocercaria* V is the first cercaria related to the genus *Cotylurus* described for Argentina.

Finally we suggest three possible reviewers:

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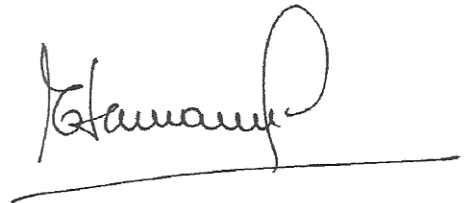
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We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. María Virginia Fernández



Dr. Monika Inés Hamann