

**BACTERIAL CONTAMINATION OF THE CATFISH (*Cathorops agassizii* - Valenciennes, 1839 and *Genidens genidens* - Agassiz, 1829) STING**

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**ABSTRACT:** This work aimed to study the bacterial contamination in stings of the catfish *Genidens genidens* and *Cathorops agassizii* found in the São Vicente estuarine system (São Paulo State, Brazil). For bacteriological analyses, we used fish samples distributed into a group of 50 specimens (25 *C. agassizii* and 25 *G. genidens*) and a group of 14 specimens (7 *C. agassizii* and 7 *G. genidens*). Results showed contamination of 13 different bacterial species of *Enterobacteriaceae*, being *Klebsiella pneumoniae* the most frequent bacteria (26.80%) followed by *Enterobacter* sp and *Escherichia coli* (16.27%), and *Serratia marcescens*, *Serratia* sp. and *Proteus mirabilis* (1.16%). Gram-positive bacteria as well as fungi were not detected in the samples. According to the Gram-negative species characterized and with regard to the environmental conditions, it can also be considered that accidents with these catfish stings may develop significant acute secondary infections in humans.

**KEY WORDS:** *Cathorops agassizii*, *Genidens genidens*, sting venom.

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