Metazoan parasites of anurans from the Vhembe area, Limpopo, South Africa

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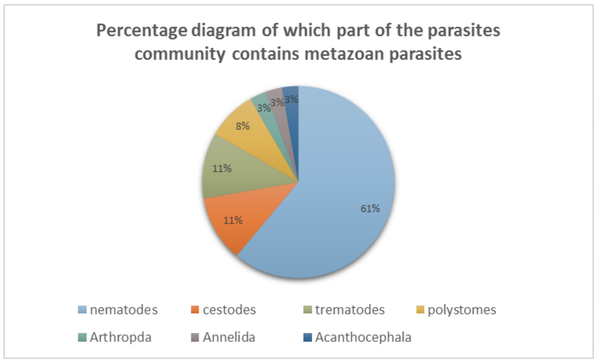
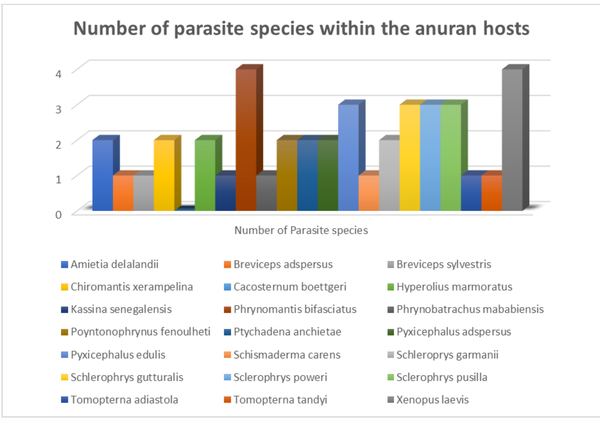
Introduction

Since amphibians colonized the land about 350 million years ago, they diversified with their parasite fauna and today amphibians are hosts to vast numbers and an astonishing diversity of parasites representing all major parasitic groups. These include protozoans, nematodes, monogenic flukes, cestodes, acanthocephalans, digenetic flukes, leeches and mites.

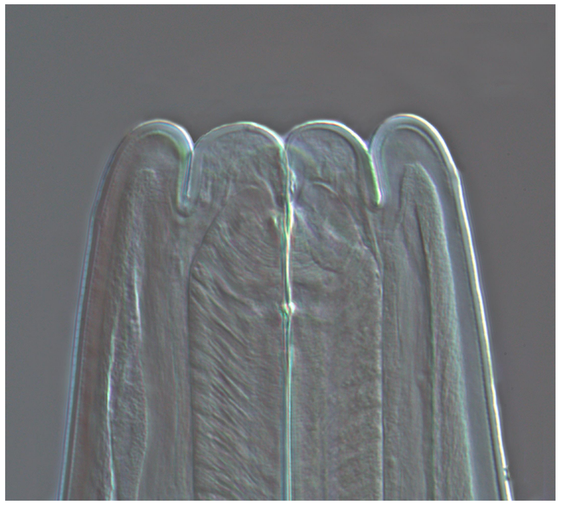
Methodology and Graphs

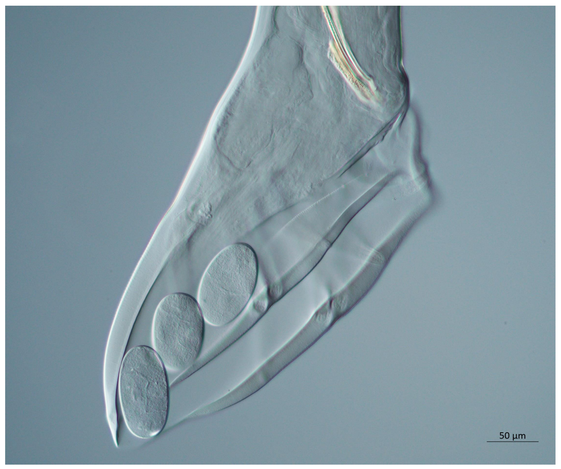
325 specimens of frogs representing 25 species were collected, dissected and all parasites collected.





Results





Conclusions

Nematodes with the monoxenous life cycle are dominating the parasite community showing low involvement in frogs, in the food chains from the study area.
A total of seven species are found to be genetically and morphologically different from all previously known species and will be described as new species.

Acknowledgements

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