The gregarines were arranged in the traditional phylum Sporozoa, renamed Apicomplexa by Levine (1970). They are parasitic protists, all endoparasites of invertebrate or vertebrate hosts. They show different degrees of host specificity (Vivier & Desportes 1989).

Dusznski (in Vivier & Desportes 1989) estimates that there are about 500 species in the class Gregarinia. The wide majority of gregarines are monoxenous, but some species may be heteroxenous because their life cycles are still unknown.

Gregarines in the intestine of barnacles were first reported by Kölliker (1848), and described in the intestine of Balanus pallidus as Gregarina balani. Mawrodiadi (1908) demonstrated C. communis in B. eburneus, B. amphitrite, B. crenatus and Megabalanus tintinnabulum.

Tregouboff (1912) and Kamm (1922) pointed out that the members of the family Cephaloiphoridae are parasites of crustaceans and develop within the cells, producing one or more oval spores. Ball (1973) and Henry (1938) also studied gregarines in barnacles. Tuzet and Ormières (1908) contributed to their morphology and Barnes (1953) studied gregarines of the family Cephaloiphoridae these organisms can be seen associated during their growth in groups of usually two individuals, or may develop singly (Fig. 1), as reported by Vivier and Desportes (1989).

The gregarines in barnacles have been studied by various authors in the United States of America, England, France and Germany. In Brazil there has been relatively little interest in these sessile crustaceans. Since, this is the first report of gregarine in the intestine of the barnacle Euraphia rhyzophorae, Oliveira (1940) collected on the shore in Angra dos Reis, near the city of Rio de Janeiro.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Approximately 150 adult barnacles of E. rhyzophorae were collected from the roots of Rhizophora mangle on the shore in Angra dos Reis, State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, between 1990 and 1996. The barnacles, with or without substrate, were immediately immersed in a fixative such as Bouin’s (according to Duboscq-Brasil) or Heidenhein’s original of Susa. In the laboratory the specimens were separated for anatomical, microanatomical and histological studies. Dehydrated in alcohol-benzol series, they were embedded in “histoseck” paraffin. Serial sections cut at 5 and 7 µm were stained with Gallocyanin, Chromotrop 2R, Dehydrated in alcohol-benzol series, they were embedded in “histoseck” paraffin. Serial sections cut at 5 and 7 µm were stained with Gallocyanin, Chromotrop 2R, Heidenhain Iron Hematoxylin and Mallory Hematoxylin, following the methods presented by Pinto (1919), Romein (1928), Henry (1938), Pantin (1948), Barth (1953) and Pearse (1960).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

C. communis gregarines were observed in the mid and hind gut of the barnacles E. rhyzophorae (Fig. 1, GR, INT). This species of gregarine was described by Mawrodiadi (1908) from other species of barnacles: B. improvisus, B. amphitrite, B. eburneus and M. tintinnabulum, in which oval spores 50 to 60 µm in size were observed inside. In gregarines of the family Cephaloiphoridae these organisms can be seen associated during their growth in groups of usually two individuals, or may develop singly (Fig. 1), as reported by Vivier and Desportes (1989).

The gregarines in E. rhyzophorae were always numerous in the digestive tube and exhibited different growth phases. Although almost all organs of the host may be infected by apicomplexan zoites or other forms, there is always a motile stage that may penetrate the target or-
gans, where the development may be completed (Vivier & Desportes 1989).

Fig. 1 shows deuteromites (GR) containing dark round bodies (MR) of stock material in the lumen of the midgut (INT). NU identifies the nucleus of one of the epithelial cells.

The forms seen next to the epithelial cells (Fig. 2 EP) are limited to the plasma membrane that lines the intestinal lumen. The epithelial wall of the intestine in barnacles has extended narrow cells. Their cytoplasm is dense, with

Intestine of *Euraphia rhyzophorae* midgut. Fig. 1: GR: gregarines in syzygy; INT: intestine; NU: nucleus; MR: stock material, TC: connective tissue. Gallocyanin and Chromotrop 2R. 250x. Fig. 2: intestinal epithelium (EP). Gallocyanin and Eosin. 250x. Fig. 3: EP; ESP: spores inside intestine cells; VC: hyalin vacuoles and dark spores. Heidenhain’s Iron Hematoxylin. 250x. Fig. 4: GR in pancreatic secretion. TB: conducting tube of pancreatic secretion; GE: pancreatic gland. Gallocyanin and Chromotrop 2R. 250x.
a central nucleus, round and rich in chromatin. Within the cytoplasm clear vacuoles are seen (Fig. 3, VC). These contain one or more sporocysts measuring about 40 µm which stand out as dark bodies in the hyaline vacuoles (ESP). They emerge into the lumen throughout the entire intestine.

These gregarines of rounded forms (Fig. 4, GR) emerge from the duct (TB) of the pancreatic gland (GE). This picture shows where the duct of the pancreatic gland comes in contact with the epithelium of the intestine and two spherical gregarines. Some gregarines (Fig. 5, GR) are seen in the intestinal folds (DB). Others appear to be passing

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**Fig. 5:** internal fold of intestinal epithelium. Gregarines (GR) near the intestinal fold; DB: intestine fold. Gallocyanin and Eosin. 100x. **Fig. 6:** hind region of intestine. BL: fecal mass; MB: limiting membrane of fecal mass; RS: fecal remainder; EP: intestinal epithelium; VL: limiting valve of estomodeo with proctodeo. Heidenhain’s Iron Hematoxylin. 100x. **Fig. 7:** the relation GR and epithelial cell CL. NU: nucleus; VC: vacuole; TC: connective tissue. Gallocyanin and Chromotrop 2R. 250x.
from the midgut into the proctodeum, remaining in the posterior intestine close to the fecal mass (Fig. 6, BL). In this longitudinal section one sees the sphincter (VL) that separates the midgut from the posterior intestine.

Fig. 7 shows a giant gregarine (GR), about 150 µm long, close to a row of epithelial cells. In the mid part of the deutomerite (Fig. 8, DT) there is a distinct nucleus (NU), spherical, poor in chromatin (CR) but with an accentuated nuclear membrane. A dense nucleolus (NUC) is present. The cytoplasm is granular (CT), almost alveolar but it may also show dark spots, as in Fig. 1 (MR).

Some gregarines present matching posterior parts, familiar figures of syzygy, as can be seen in Figs 2 and 8. The gut parts of *E. rhyzophorae*, can be observed in Fig. 9, where within the enteron (ENT) a round gregarine (GR), the esophagean valve (VL), a part of the esophagus (ES) and the pharynx (FA), which constitutes the foregut are detected; the pancreatic gland (GE) is always lateral to the intestinal wall.

*C. communis* found in the barnacles *E. rhyzophorae* in Brazil may be another giant gregarine like *Porospora giganteal* and *Didymophyes gigantea* that parasitizes coleopterans larva (Grassé 1953). In barnacles there was no evidence of cellular damage associated with the presence of these gregarines.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

To Genilton Vieira and collaborators of the Laboratory of Production and Handling of Images of the Instituto Oswaldo Cruz-Fiocruz, for assistance in figures reproduction.

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**Fig. 8:** gregarines in syzygy. PR: protomerito; DT: deutomerito; NU: nucleus; NUC: nucleolus; MN: nuclear membrane; CR: chromatin; MP: plasma membrane; CT: granular cytoplasm. Gallocyanin and Chromotrop 2R. 450x. **Fig. 9:** longitudinal histological section of the anterior digestive tube of *Euraphia rhyzophorae*. PR: proctodeo region; ENT: enteron; VL: retention valve of food from proctodeo to enteron; GR: spheric gregarine in the enteron; GE: pancreatic gland; ES: esophagus; FA: pharynx. Mallory’s Hematoxylin. 100x.
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