

**EVALUATION OF THE TOTAL MERCURY CONTAMINATION IN TAPAJÓS RIVER BASIN
PART III. SEVERAL SPECIES OF FISH CAUGHT IN ITAITUBA, STATE OF PARÁ**

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The discovery from gold in the municipality of Itaituba, in the Tapajós's river Basin, State of Pará, comes from 1958. Since then this region became one of the most important commercial center of gold in Brazil. As consequence the city of Itaituba, circa 120000 inhabitants, has high levels of mercury in the environment. Due to its geographical localisation the fish consumption plays a key role in the diary food of the riverine communities.

The main purpose of this work is to determine the concentration of mercury in ten more consumed fish species' of the region and to identify between those the more contaminated with this metal.

For mercury determination has been used a cold vapor atomic absorption spectrophotometry technique.

The results reveal a higher mercury concentration in carnivorous species studied than herbivorous, detritivorous and the omnivores species.

It was also found a significant correlation between the fish weight, size and mercury concentration for at least three carnivorous species studied in detailed (Prachysplatystoma flavicans, Pseudoplastystoma SP with $R_{sq} = 85\%$ and Chichla SP).

All carnivorous species studied presented a total mercury concentration above of maximum permissible established by the World Human Organization for human consumption.

It could also be observed higher mercury content in the large carnivorous species than smaller carnivorous species.