



Monopisthocotylean parasites of cichlids and clariids in the Upper Congo Basin (DR Congo): Examining diversity

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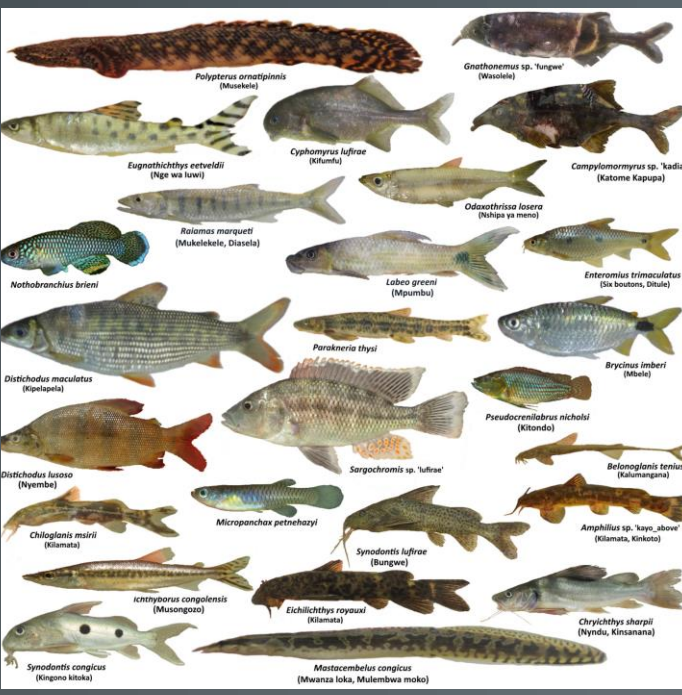
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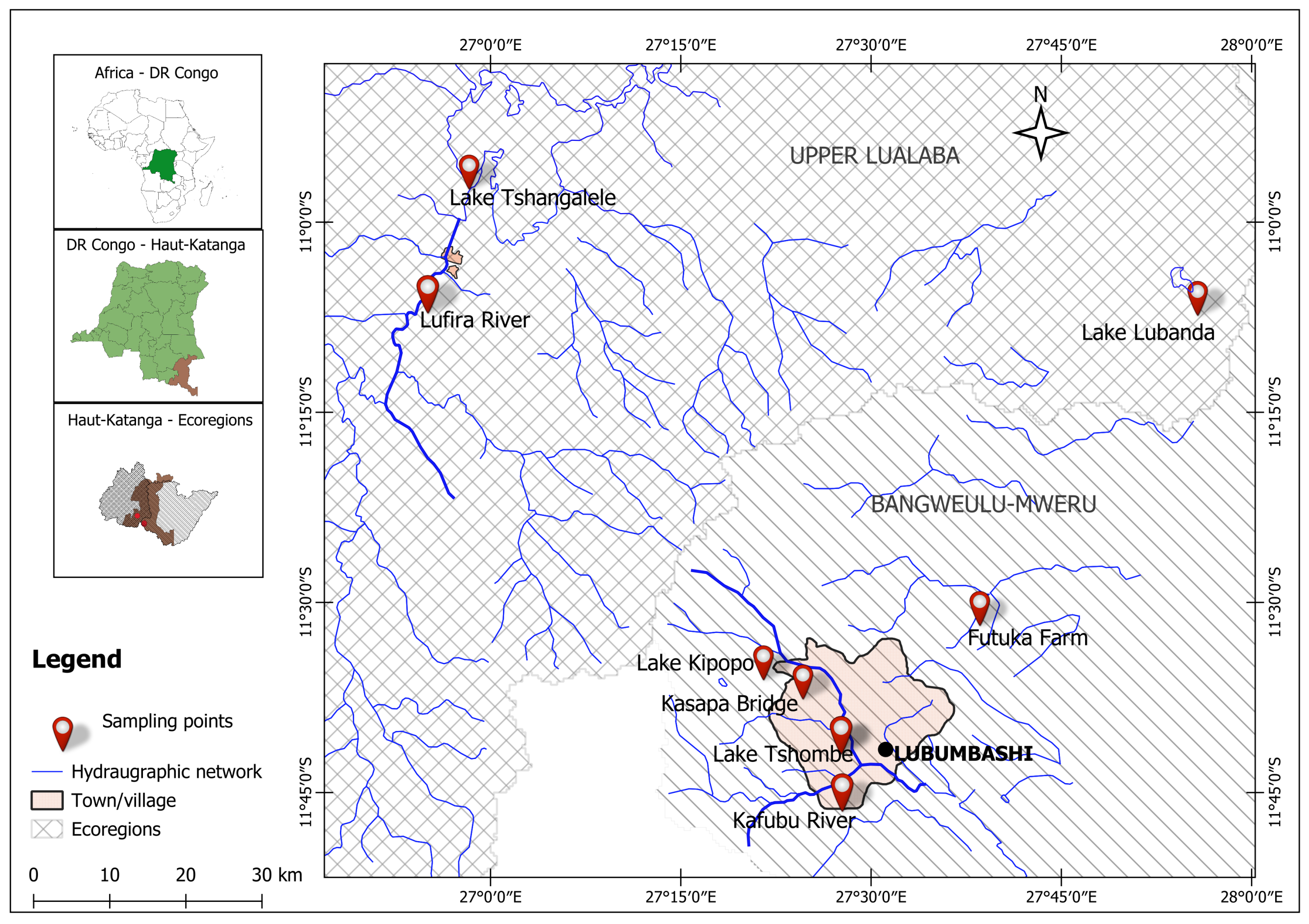
Introduction

In view of the importance of fish diversity in the Congo Basin, the focus on fish parasites is an interesting model for aquatic biodiversity. Unfortunately the Upper Congo Basin is unexplored or poorly studied for monopisthocotyleans. This study is a contribution to research on monopisthocotyleans of four members of cichlids and five members of clariids, through the record of 26 monopisthocotylean species including 23 known species and three under description.

The study highlights the potential richness of monopisthocotylean communities in the region and will serve as the basis for faunal inventories of parasites on other fish species and the use of parasites as biological tools for water monitoring in such threatened ecosystems like the Congo Basin.



Study area



Eight sampling sites in the Upper Congo Basin (Upper Lualaba and Bangweulu-Mweru Ecoregions)

Methodology



1. Fish collection using fyke or gillnets



2. Fish identification using



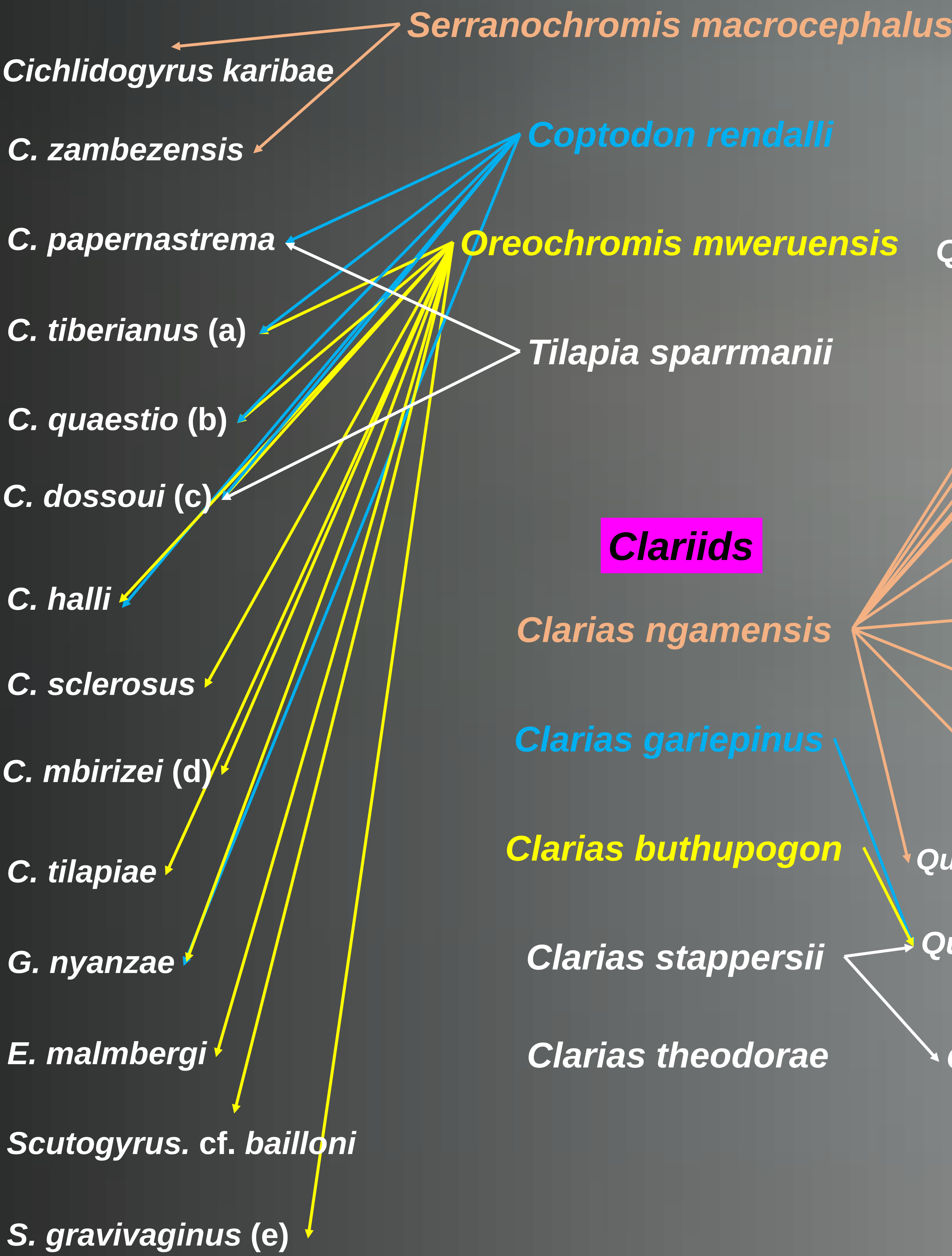
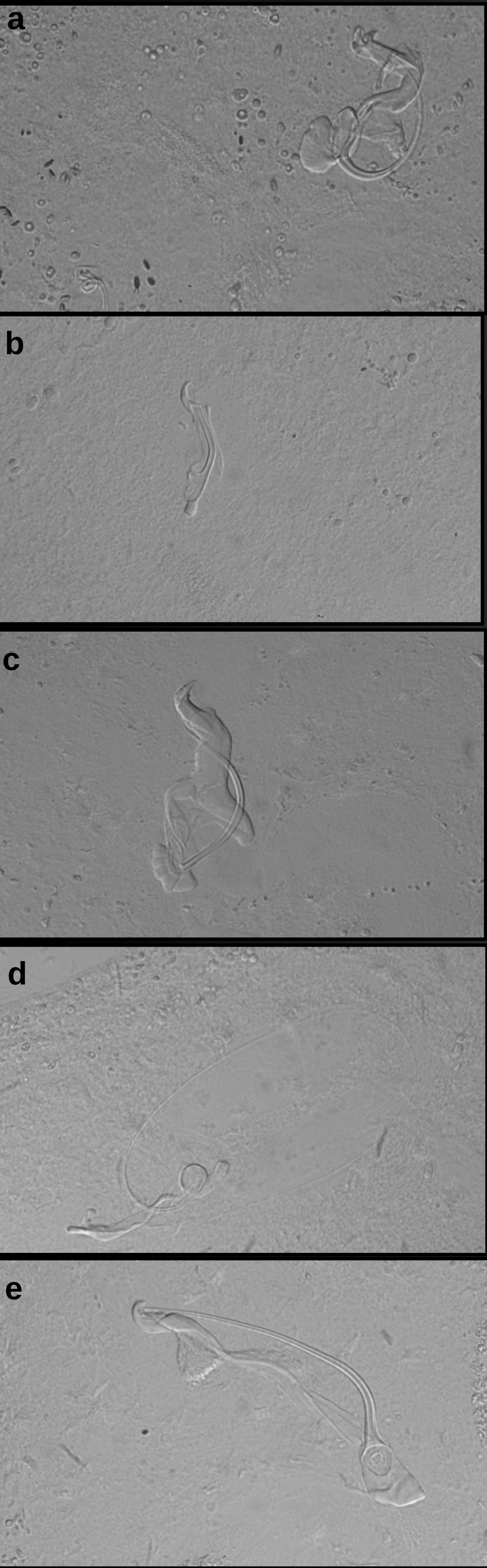
3. Parasite collection and identification

Cichlids (*Serranochromis macrocephalus*, *Coptodon rendalli*, *Oreochromis mweruensis* and *Tilapia sparrmanii*) and clariids (*Clarias ngamensis*, *C. stappersii*, *C. buthupogon*, *C. theodora* and *C. gariepinus*)

Results

Twenty-six parasite species: 14 on cichlids, belonging to four genera (*Cichlidogyrus*, *Enterogyrus*, *Gyrodactylus*, *Scutogyrus*), and 12 on clariids, belonging to three genera (*Macrogyrodactylus*, *Gyrodactylus*, *Quadriacanthus*) have been recorded.

Cichlids



Clariids

