



[P28] SEABIRD POPULATION HEALTH MONITORING IN A BRAZILIAN OCEANIC ISLAND: *CHLAMYDOPHILA PSITTACI* SURVEYS ON BREEDING PROCELLARIIFORMES AND PHAETHONTIFORMES

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The health status of seabirds in Brazilian oceanic islands is poorly known, especially in breeding Procellariiformes and Phaethontiformes. Several diseases can potentially affect these seabirds, among them chlamydiosis, a zoonosis caused by the infective obligate intracellular bacterium *Chlamydochlamydia psittaci*. In general, infected birds, even without showing clinical signs of chlamydiosis, eliminate the microorganism in the excreta, intermittently, for long time periods. In order to investigate this disease on national threatened seabird populations, swabs were collected from White-tailed Tropicbird (*Phaethon lepturus*), Red-billed tropicbird (*Phaethon aethereus*) and Audubon's shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*) at Fernando de Noronha Archipelago, a group of 17 oceanic islands and islets about 354 km from the Brazilian mainland. Field studies were conducted during the breeding season of 2010. After manual restraint, cloacal and oral swab samples were collected from 41 apparently healthy birds and stored in transport medium microtubes and frozen. Subsequently, the samples were submitted to DNA extraction and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to detect the genome of *C. psittaci*. All samples evaluated showed negative results. In Brazil these seabirds are considered threatened due to the fact that they breed only in two archipelagos and are particularly vulnerable to invasive exotic species, disease introduction and habitat destruction. Disease research as part of a continuous monitoring of population health are necessary for understanding new ecological or disease disturbances, to predict population trends, and to evaluate the overall status of the marine ecosystem.