Title : Survey of helminth infection in black rats (*Rattus rattus*) from Nakhon Chai Si district, Nakhon Pathom province

Author(s) : **1.** Anunya Bucha **Student ID :** 640510303

Major : Zoology

Advisor(s) : **1.** Lect. Dr. Preeyaporn Butboonchoo

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ABSTRACT

The black rat (*Rattus rattus*) originates from India and has spread worldwide through human maritime travel. In Thailand, it is commonly found in both urban communities and agricultural areas. *Rattus rattus* exhibits omnivorous feeding behavior, consuming both plant and animal matter, which increases its likelihood of acquiring parasitic infections from intermediate hosts. Due to its close association with humans, this species has the potential to transmit parasitic helminths capable of causing zoonotic diseases. A study was conducted to investigate helminth infections in *Rattus rattus* from selected areas of Nakhon Chai Si District, Nakhon Pathom Province. A total of 30 black rats were examined between July 2024 and January 2025, with parasitic screening performed on the small intestine, large intestine, heart, lungs, and liver. The results indicated an overall prevalence of **73.33%**, with five species of helminths identified. The prevalence and intensity of infection were recorded as follows: two cestode species, *Raillietina* sp. (**53.33%, 5.69**) and *Taenia* sp. (**33.33%, 1**); and three nematode species, *Pterygodermatites* sp. (**3.33%, 1**), *Syphacia muris* (**26.66%, 10.88**), and *Nippostrongylus brasiliensis* (**50%, 21.8**). Among these, *Raillietina* sp. exhibited the highest prevalence, while *Syphacia muris* had the highest intensity of infection.

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