

Title : Infections of Gastrointestinal Parasites in Mammals from Chiang Mai Zoo

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ABSTRACT

Mammals are the definitive hosts of various gastrointestinal parasites. In Chiang Mai Zoo, various mammals are kept and released into the wild. They can be infected with parasites from food and environment. This study aimed to investigate the prevalence and intensity of gastrointestinal parasites in mammals from Chiang Mai Zoo. Thirty-three mammals (15 artiodactyls, 3 primates, 15 carnivores) were detected for parasitic infections by fecal examination using a simple direct smear and formalin-ether concentration technique. Only helminth was found from the simple direct smear technique, with an overall prevalence of 18.18%. The prevalence in each mammal group was 20% in artiodactyls, 20% in carnivores, and not found in primates. The helminths were identified as rhabditiform larvae and eggs of *Strongyloides* sp. with prevalences of 3.03% and 15.15%, respectively, and intensities of 47.50 and 3.67, respectively. Both helminths and protozoa were found from the formalin-ether concentration technique, with an overall prevalence was 21.21%. The prevalence in each mammal group was 26.66% in artiodactyls, 20% in carnivores, and not found in primates. The parasites were identified as rhabditiform larvae and eggs of *Strongyloides* sp., and cysts of *Entamoeba* sp., with prevalences of 6.06%, 21.21%, and 3.03%, respectively, and intensities of 30, 2.43, and 34, respectively. This study shows the presence of gastrointestinal parasite infections that can be transmitted to other animal species and humans, suggesting the need for future measures to manage the spread.

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