

Enteroparasites of captive long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*) from National Wildlife Research and Rescue Center, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines

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(Accepted June 30, 2015)

ABSTRACT

Animals living in captivity are exposed and susceptible to parasitic infections. This study was conducted to identify enteroparasites in captive long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*) from National Wildlife Research and Rescue Center, Diliman, Quezon City. Fifty fecal samples were collected and analyzed using formalin-ether concentration technique. Prevalence, intensity and correlation between different variables tested were determined employing different statistical tools. Out of 50 macaques examined, 49 were infected with one or several species of intestinal parasites. Identified parasites represented 11 protozoans (*Blastocystis hominis*, *Chilomastix mesnili*, *Cyclospora* sp., *Endolimax nana*, *Entamoeba chattoni*, *Entamoeba coli*, *Entamoeba hartmanni*, *Iodamoeba butschlii*, *Isospora* sp., *Entamoeba histolytica/dispar*, *Giardia lamblia*) and two nematode species (*Strongyloides* sp. and *Trichuris trichura*). Protozoa had higher intensity and prevalence (98%) recorded. Among the species identified, *E. coli* was the most prevalent (82%) and had the highest intensity (1557 E/CPG) observed. Correlation between BMI and parasite intensities demonstrated a weak positive association but showed no significant difference between sexes of *M. fascicularis*. Though most of the infections were nonpathogenic, *M. fascicularis* harbor important parasites that pose potential danger to public health, livestock and wildlife animals. These data will help improve the management of captive macaques and the safety of animal keepers and visitors.

Keywords: Gastrointestinal parasites, Formalin-ether Concentration Technique, intensity, prevalence, parasite distribution