

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

SEATO Medic Study No. 30 Studies on Paragonimus westermani in Thailand

Project No. 3A 025601 A 811 Military Medical Research Program
S. E. Asia

Task 01: Military Medical Research Program
S. E. Asia

Subtask 01: Military Medical Research Program
SEASIA (Thailand)

Reporting Installation: US Army-SEATO Medical Research Laboratory,
APO 146, San Francisco, California.

 Division of Medical Research Laboratories

 Department of Medical Zoology

Period Covered by Report: 1 April 1963 to 31 March 1964

Principal Investigator: Major Dale E. Wykoff, MSC

Associate Investigator: Dr. Rolf A. M. Brändt

Assistant Investigator: Miss Boonsiri Phrukoudom

Reports Control Symbol: MEDDH-288

Security Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

BODY OF REPORT

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Objective: To determine by means of sputum, stool, physical and X-ray examinations whether paragonimiasis is a disease of medical importance in Thailand. If so, to ascertain its prevalence and distribution, to determine which snails and crabs act as intermediate hosts, and to discover which animals act as natural reservoirs.

Description: For this recently-established project there is little background in Thailand. Some 50 human cases have been reported from a city north of Bangkok. Diagnosis was made by finding eggs in the sputum and stool, after the population had been tested with skin-test antigen. A tiger was then taken from near the Thai-Malaysia border and found to harbor lung trematodes which were identified as being Paragonimus westermani. Recently the present investigators examined 72 cats from far northeast in Thailand, near the Lao border and almost 800 miles from the area where the tiger was captured. Nine of the 72 cats were found to harbor lung flukes which were identified as being P. westermani. It is reported that people throughout Thailand eat raw crabs, and since these animals are infected, it may be that the problem in humans is greater than has been suspected. The crab and snail intermediate hosts are unknown.

Progress: The project having just recently been initiated no data other than the examination of the 72 cats are yet available.

Summary: There is a possibility that paragonimiasis is a greater public health problem in Thailand than has heretofore been recognized. This study will examine the possibility during the coming months.

Conclusion: An insufficient number of data have been gathered to warrant a conclusion at this time concerning paragonimiasis in Thailand.