

2. Title: Surveys of Domestic and Sylvatic Animals for Rabiesvirus Infection.

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OBJECTIVE

The objective of this study is to define sylvatic and domestic reservoirs of rabiesvirus infections in Thailand. Recent findings of enzootic rabies in rodents and bats in Thailand offer unique opportunities for epidemiological and ecological studies.

DESCRIPTION

Fluorescent Rabies Antibody and mouse inoculation tests are used to examine all specimens. Rodents are live-trapped and a careful description of the habitat and other ecological factors are recorded. Public Health and Civic Action Groups are encouraged to survey a population for rabies both prior to and following stray dog elimination and rabies vaccination campaigns.

PROGRESS

During this report period 15 dog heads were submitted by the Thai Ministry of Public Health and the 606th Civic Action Group as a result of a stray dog elimination and mass vaccination program in the Ubon area. Ten were examined by FRA test and found to be negative. Five specimens were decomposed to such an extent that an accurate diagnosis could not be made.

Results of surveys conducted on rodents in various provinces are shown in Table 2. A total of 236 rodents were trapped in various provinces. All were examined by FRA test or mouse inoculation and found to be negative for rabies. Seventy-six rodents were trapped in Chiangmai and Mae Sarieng Provinces but examinations have not been completed.

SUMMARY

Surveys of rodent populations failed to substantiate previous findings of a significant amount of rabiesvirus infections.

Table 2. Surveys of Thai rodent populations rabiesvirus infections

Species	Province	# Examine	Results
<u>B. indicus</u> *	Rayong	93	Negative
<u>R. norvegicus</u> **	Cholburi	11	Negative
<u>R. rattus</u>	Cholburi	5	Negative
<u>B. indicus</u>	Cholhuri	5	Negative
<u>R. exulans</u>	Cholburi	1	Negative
Ground Squirrel	Cholburi	1	Negative
<u>Cynopterus brachyotis</u>	Cholburi	1	Negative
<u>B. bengalensis</u>	Kanchanaburi	82	Negative
<u>R. exulans</u>	Kanchanaburi	4	Negative
<u>R. indicus</u>	Kanchanaburi	1	Negative
<u>R. norvegicus</u>	Bangkok	26	Negative
<u>R. rattus</u>	Bangkok	7	Negative

* Bandicoota

** Rattus