A Search for the Snail Hosts of Schistosomiasis in Southern Thailand

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OBJECTIVE: The objective of this study was to obtain evidence relevant to the possibility of transmission of schistosomiasis in southern Thailand.

DESCRIPTION: The study area was in Nakorn Sri Tammaraj Province. A number of proven cases of schistosomiasis have been found by other workers but there is no evidence of transmission.

The approach was to collect snails from all available habitats for examination for cercariae. Species not usually considered as vector candidates were not excluded since it was deemed possible that an unusual vector might be involved.

It was planned to examine as many stools as possible from people in the villages in which schistosomiasis was previously found. In addition to concentration methods for ova the miracidium hatching technique was also employed.

PROGRESS: The results of the snail examinations are presented in Table I. No human pathogens were found.

In spite of encouragement by local health authorities, the populace in the involved areas were reluctant to cooperate, possibly because of earlier studies involving rectal biopsy by another research group. However, stools from a total of 345 people were obtained and examined; none were found to contain schistosome ova.

This is the final report on this study.

SUMMARY: No evidence of schistosomiasis transmission was found during the examination of 4086 snails and stools from 345 people in Nakorn Sri Tammaraj.

Table 1. Results of examinations of Nakorn Sri Thammaraj snails for schistosome cercariae.

Snail species	No. Exam.	No. Pos.	Remarks
Radix rubiginosa	2475	2	*Orientobilharzia-harinasuti*
Brotia laevis	220	0	
Wattebledia siamensis	550	0	
Bithynia sp.	440	0	
Clea sp.	115	0	
Melanoides tuberculata	37	0	
Trochorbis and *Helicorbis* spp.	250	0	
Total :	4087	2	