

Distribution and Ecology of Ectoparasites of Vertebrates in Southeast Asia.

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**OBJECTIVE:** To assemble information on the geographic and seasonal distribution and the host—parasite relationships of the ectoparasites of vertebrates in Southeast Asia.

**DESCRIPTION:** Ectoparasites are removed from mammals, birds and other vertebrates collected in selected study sites and in connection with various disease studies in Thailand and elsewhere in Southeast Asia. The ectoparasites are preserved, sorted into major groups and identified at SMRL or submitted to specialists abroad for identification. Aliquots of collections used for inoculations of test animals are given priority in these identifications. Studies on the taxonomy and ecology of the various vertebrate hosts are also conducted.

**PROGRESS:** During the period of this report the tabulation and correlation of data on habitats, hosts, climatic conditions and other ecologic factors, relating to ectoparasites collected previously were continued. A monograph on chiggers of the genus Leptotrombidium Nagayo et al., 1916 in Thailand is under preparation. Three additional new species of chiggers were recorded for Thailand during this period: Neoschoengastia heynemanai Nadchatram & Upham, 1966 from Halcyon smyrnensis in Pathum Thani province; Walchiella lacunosa (Gater, 1932) from Rattus rattus in Pattani province and Gahrlepiea (Walchia) erana Traub & Evans, 1957 from Rattus rattus in Nakhon Ratchasima province.

**SUMMARY:** Data on distribution, hosts and ecologic factors relating to ectoparasites of Thailand were tabulated and correlated in preparation for publication. A monograph on the chiggers of the genus Leptotrombidium in Thailand was submitted for publication. Three additional species of trombiculid mites were added to the ectoparasite fauna known for Thailand.

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