

The Occurrence and Transmission of *Vibrio parahemolyticus*
in a Thai Fishing Village Population

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OBJECTIVE: To determine the prevalence of *Vibrio parahemolyticus* in an insular Thai fishing village population.

BACKGROUND: This report is a continuation of the study originally described in the SEATO Medical Research Laboratory Annual Progress Report 1972-1973, pp. 113-114.

PROGRESS: In May 1973 the village of Ban Kho Lan was mapped and a house by house census of the total population was taken.

The village is located on the protected side of the island, on a narrow plain between the sea and nearby foothills. The physical terrain of the location forces the village to assume a long, narrow shape oriented along a North-South axis. There is a concentrated area of houses in the center on the North side of the market place. This is also the location of the piers. The village area south of the market place extends down a dirt road, and is composed of larger houses and yards, suggesting greater affluence.

There are a total of 158 families occupying 156 houses. There were an additional 33 houses that were unoccupied at the time the census was taken. Some families have more than one house and change residency depending on the season, apparently to escape or to enjoy the prevailing winds.

Nine-hundred ninety-one (991) persons were living in the village at the time the survey was made. Age and sex data are shown in Table 1. The sex ratio is essentially unity except for the 16-20 year age group in which the percentage of males is only 34%. This is probably the result of males leaving the insular setting for both military service as well as for the job opportunities and "adventure" of Bangkok or other cities.

The number of individuals per household ranged from 1 to 13 with an average of just over 6 persons per house. There were only 22 houses that had no persons less than 24 years of age. The largest number of children in any one house was 7 and the median number of children per house was 3. There were a total of 437 persons considered children, i.e., under 14 years of age.

The village has a surprisingly stable population. The average length of stay on the island is 17.6 years with a range of less than one month (the new teacher and recently appointed midwife) to 82 years. 776 (78%) persons had lived in the village their entire life.

SUMMARY: To date the entire population of Kho Lan village has been censused and the village mapped. A prevalence survey on a random selection of households will be done for *Vibrio parahemolyticus* using cultures of rectal swabs.

Table 1. Age and Sex of the Total Population of Ban Kho Lan, May 1973

Age	Male	Female	Total	% Male
0-5	92	95	187	49
6-10	85	78	163	52
11-15	68	71	139	49
16-20	37	72	109	34
21-25	30	36	66	45
26-30	29	24	53	55
31-35	35	29	64	55
36-40	29	16	45	64
41-45	20	22	42	48
46-50	13	12	25	52
51-55	15	9	24	62
56-60	7	15	22	32
61-65	8	12	20	40
66-70	8	3	11	73
71+	7	8	15	50
Unknown	4	2	6	66
Total	487	504	991	49%