

EPIDEMIOLOGY OF LEPTOSPIROSIS IN NORTH EAST THAILAND

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OBJECTIVES : The leptospirosis study has been continued. The objectives of this study included identifying the serotypes of leptospirosis present in man, domestic and wild animals and developing diagnostic techniques to study human populations. The epidemiological survey involving various domestic and trapped wild animal species in North East Thailand has been completed. Definitive identification and confirmation of serotypes identified at AFRIMS was accomplished at the Leptospirosis Reference Laboratory in Brisbane, Australia.

Microagglutination screening tests for Leptospiral antibodies were completed on the following :

Human sera	215 specimens
Water buffalo & cattle sera	1,510 specimens
Dogs	214 specimens
Horses	108 specimens
Rodents	188 specimens
Pigs	50 specimens

In addition culturing of 267 human blood and urine specimens as well as 251 trapped rodent kidneys for leptospiral organisms was completed in FY 1981. Specimens from suspect human cases at the Children's Hospital are being cultured and a micro-agglutination test completed to further characterize human incidence and serotypes present in Thailand. During FY 82 a solid phase antibody capture enzyme linked immunoabsorbant assay for rapid diagnostic screening of fever of unidentified origin cases in humans will be developed using cultures from a broad spectrum nonpathogenic strain and additional strains necessary to cover all known serotypes.