A SYSTEMATIC STUDY ON OXYURIDS IN RATS FROM THAILAND

Fumiko YOSHIDA

Department of Parasitology
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
Hokkaido University, Sapporo 060, Japan

A parasitological survey of the genus *Rattus* was carried out in Thailand between 1978 and 1980. A total of 288 specimens, comprising 10 species, was collected. The number and species of rats examined were 25 *Rattus sabanus*, 24 *R. losea*, 50 *R. confucianus*, 89 *R. surifer*, 4 *R. bukit*, 43 *R. rattus*, 27 *R. exulans*, 9 *R. fulvescens*, 5 *R. berdmorei* and 12 *R. norvegicus*. In this study, only oxyurids were reported.

Five species of *Syphacia* were collected from the rats examined. The infection rates of *Syphacia muris* and *S. obvelata* in *R. sabanus* were 8 and 4%; *S. muris* in *R. losea* was 41.7%; *S. frederici* in *R. confucianus* was 18%; *Syphacia* sp. I in *R. surifer* was 14.6%; *Syphacia* sp. II in *R. bukit* and *R. rattus* were 50 and 7.0%, respectively. To date, *S. frederici* has been reported only from *Apodemus* in the Holarctic region. Thus, this is the first report of *S. frederici* from the genus *Rattus*. *Syphacia* sp. I differed from the hitherto known species of *Syphacia* in length as well as the morphological structures of the head. Although its head is similar to that of *S. emileromani*, it differed morphologically in the posterior extremity and also in size. However, its size is similar to that of *S. lopuromyos*. Thus, it is possible that *Syphacia* sp. I is a new species. Since only a few female and no male specimens of *Syphacia* sp. II were collected, it was very difficult to identify the parasite. However, from observations of the morphological structures of the head, *Syphacia* sp. II closely resembled *S. muris*.