Research Article

The occurrence of infectious intestinal protozoans in primates of the Lower Kinabatangan floodplain, Sabah, Malaysia

Surdensteeve Peter¹, Noor Haliza Hasan¹*, Andrew J. J. MacIntosh¹,²

¹Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Jalan UMS, 88400 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah
²Kyoto University Primate Research Institute Kanrin 41-2 Inuyama, Aichi Japan 484-8506

*Corresponding author: hhaliza@ums.edu.my

Abstract

Primate parasite study is an important subject in primate research, especially with the ongoing threats from anthropogenic disturbances such as land conversion and deforestation. This study is conducted to investigate the occurrence of Cryptosporidium and Giardia in primates of the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary (LKWS), Sabah, Malaysia. Fecal samples collected were tested with immunochromatographic test kits to rapidly screen for Cryptosporidium spp. and Giardia spp. in samples from 45 long-tailed macaques and 40 proboscis monkeys. The overall rate of infection for Cryptosporidium spp. for both species is moderately high at approximately 44.71% (n = 38), with 17.64% (n = 14) individuals are positive with Giardia spp., while 38.82% of the individuals (n=33) tested are not infected with either Cryptosporidium spp. or Giardia spp. Parasite documentation is an integral aspect of primate research, as the information will provide insights on the health status and disease risk of non-human primate populations, thus helping scientists to make better conservation plans for wildlife.

Keywords: Cryptosporidium spp., Giardia spp., gastrointestinal parasite, primates, proboscis monkey, long-tailed macaques

This paper was retracted on 22th December 2020