

## RESEARCH NOTE

### *PILA AMPULLACEA* AND *POMACEA CANALICULATA*, AS NEW PARATENIC HOSTS OF *GNATHOSTOMA SPINIGERUM*

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**Abstract.** Aquatic snails, *Pila ampullacea* and *Pomacea canaliculata* were experimentally found to be suitable paratenic hosts for advanced third-stage larvae (L3) of the nematode *Gnathostoma spinigerum*, the causative parasite of gnathostomiasis in humans. *G. spinigerum* (L3) were found to be encapsulated in the tissue of the snail's foot and its internal organs. The infection, intensity and survival of third-stage larvae of *G. spinigerum* in both species of aquatic snails are described. This is the first evidence to reveal that not only vertebrates but also invertebrates (snails) can serve as paratenic hosts to this parasite. Aquatic snails are one of several sources of human gnathostomiasis in Thailand.

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