

## RESEARCH NOTE

### IDENTIFICATION OF *EHRlichia* SPP IN CANINES IN THAILAND

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**Abstract.** Canine ehrlichiosis is an endemic parasitic disease widely found in Thailand. The causative microorganism is tick-borne *Ehrlichia* spp, an obligate intracellular rickettsia residing in leukocytes. *Ehrlichia* spp in morulae-positive canine blood samples were identified using polymerase chain reaction amplification and direct sequencing of *Ehrlichia* spp. 16S rDNA 396 bp fragment and 36 of 59 were positive for *E. canis*. *E. chaffeensis* and *E. ewingii* were not detected. Sequencing alignment and phylogenetic analysis showed that 16S rDNA sequences of *E. canis* strains are 99.1-100% identical among *E. canis* strains from different countries worldwide. Further studies are required in order to determine new target sequence for genotyping of *E. canis* strains in the dog population in Thailand.

**Keywords:** *Ehrlichia canis*, *Ehrlichia ewingii*, *E. chaffeensis*, 16s rDNA, phylogenetic tree, dogs, Thailand

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