

OCCURRENCE OF ECTOPARASITES ON RODENTS IN SUKHOTHAI PROVINCE, NORTHERN THAILAND

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Abstract. A survey of ectoparasites on rodents was carried out bimonthly from April 2008 to March 2009 in 3 districts of Sukhothai Province, northern Thailand. A total of 130 rodents comprising 8 species of hosts were captured and examined for ectoparasites. The hosts examined were *Bandicota indica*, *Bandicota savilei*, *Rattus losea*, *Rattus rattus*, *Rattus exulans*, *Rattus norvegicus*, *Menetes berdmorei* and *Tamiops mccllellandii*. Ninety-seven ectoparasites were collected: 1 species of tick (*Hemaphysalis bandicota*), 2 species of mites (*Laelaps nuttali* and *Laelaps echidninus*), and 1 species of flea (*Xenopsylla cheopis*) were identified. The infestation rates by ticks, mites and fleas on the rodents were 0.77, 5.38 and 6.15%, respectively. Monitoring the rodent population and their ectoparasites is important for future planning of prevention and control of zoonotic diseases in the area.

Key word: ectoparasite, rodent, survey, Thailand

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