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Prevalence of parasites in working pig-tailed Macaques (*Macaca nemestrina*) in Kelantan, Malaysia.

[Choong SS](#)¹, [Mimi Arniladiana M](#)¹, [Ruhil HH](#)², [Peng TL](#)².

Author information

Abstract

BACKGROUND: Coconut is an important commodity in Kelantan, and pig-tailed macaques (*Macaca nemestrina*) have been traditionally used for coconut-plucking for over a century. Most of these animals were sourced from the wild population, and the parasitic status of these macaques is unknown, plus the impacts caused by these parasites are usually underestimated by the owners.

METHODS: A total of 30 macaques were sampled for blood, faeces and hair plucks to detect parasite.

RESULTS: Out of 21 faecal samples examined, 11 (52%) were determined positive for one or more gastrointestinal parasites, namely *Trichostrongylus* spp., *Strongyloides* spp., *Anatrichosoma* spp., *Capillaria* spp., *Trichuris* spp. and *Paramphisotomum* spp. *Filaria* was detected in one (3%) of the blood samples. For ectoparasites, only lice, *Pedicinus* sp., were found in 9 (30%) macaques.

CONCLUSIONS: It is imperative that the parasitic status of these animals be determined so that necessary actions and preventive measures can be implemented to prevent zoonotic transmissions.

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KEYWORDS: Helminths; captive primates; filaria; lice; zoonotic

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