Helminth infections in rats

By Arney Sapaat

A study of helminth infections on rats was conducted at four different locations. Kota Kinabalu port and Anjung Selera representing commercial area, whereas Indah Permai and Kingfisher represent residential area. Based on the number of captures from four different locations, a total number of 145 rats were caught, representing eight species. The species are Rattus rattus, Rattus norvegicus, Rattus exulans, Rattus tiomanicus, sundamy muelleri, Rattus argentiventer and Mus austenii, which are from family Muridae and also a shrew from family Soricidae which is Suncus murinus. Toxocara spp., the nematode normally found in dogs and cats, infected most of the rats at Kota Kinabalu port. Rats are the paratenic host which play the role as the intermediate hosts for Toxocara spp. Anjung Selera is located at the seashore and have bushes around it making a perfect place for intermediate hosts of Angiostrongylus malaysiensis, Hymenolepis diminuta and Hymenolepis nana. In Kingfisher, Taenia taeniaformis, has highest infection and in Indah Permai residential area, Angiostrongylus malaysiensis were found to dominate.