

## RESEARCH NOTE

### INABILITY TO TRANSMIT *BREINLIA SERGENTI* TO OTHER LABORATORY ANIMALS†

*B. sergenti* is a filarial worm found in the slow loris, *Nycticebus coucang* (Dunn and Ramachandran, 1962. *Proc. 1st UNESCO Reg. Symp. Trop. Parasit.*, Singapore: pp.252). The parasite is of interest as the adults are located in the peritoneal cavity and can be easily harvested by laprotomy. The un-sheathed microfilariae circulate in the blood stream and have a characteristic long pointed tail. The vectors include *Aedes togoi*, *Armi-geres subalbatus* and *Aedes aegypti* (Zaman and Chellappah, 1968. *Ann. Trop. Med. & Parasit.*, 62:450). In the laboratory the loris can be infected without any difficulty. However, the main problem of working with this parasite is that the host animal is restricted to Southeast Asia and is not readily obtainable. It is, therefore, of interest to find out if the parasite could be established in other laboratory animals. With this aim in mind experiments were conducted on the animals shown in the following table. Each animal was injected subcutaneously with 50 third-stage

larvae. The blood was examined at monthly intervals for 6 months.

#### List of animals injected.

	No. of animals injected	Microfilariae in blood after 6 months
1. Hamsters	6	Nil
2. Rats	6	Nil
3. Rabbits	3	Nil
4. Guinea pigs	3	Nil
5. Cats	3	Nil
6. <i>Macaca irus</i>	3	Nil
7. <i>Macaca philippinensis</i>	2	Nil
8. <i>Macaca mulatta</i>	3	Nil
9. <i>Hylobates klossi</i>	2	Nil

All the animals remained negative for microfilariae. It is, therefore, clear that the parasite is highly host specific and is not transmissible to common laboratory animals and other primates found in Southeast Asia.

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