ABSTRACT

Parasitic infection has been a global health problem for centuries, especially in developing countries like the Philippines. The Imus River has been a standard source of water and food consumption, wherein *Ipomoea aquatica* or water morning glories are most abundant. The present study evaluated the presence of possible parasites attached in *Ipomoea aquatica* and in the waters of Imus River in three different sampling points: the upstream, midstream and downstream. A total of 18 500mL river water and 60 plant samples were collected from the river and parasites were detected by subjecting to water decantation and isolating the plant sediments via centrifugation and identified for possible manifestations. The results of the study showed an array of 10 parasites including seven waterborne pathogens (eggs of *Hymenolepid* and *Trichurid*, *Trichuris lobus*, an unfertilized *Ascaris*, species of *Isospora* and *Balantidium*), trematode (*Schistosoma sp.), Trichomonas sp.* and one unknown parasite and oocyst with *Trichomonas sp.*, has been reported with the highest abundance (141.4) found in the plant samples of *I. aquatica.* Furthermore, there was higher parasitic diversity in the water samples than of the plant and upstream among the three sampling points of Imus River.

Keywords: *Ipomoea aquatica*, Water Morning Glory, Imus River