OCCURRENCE OF *CRYPTOSPORIDIUM SPP.* OOCYST AND *GIARDIA LAMBLIA* CYST IN MALLARD DUCKS (*ANAS PLATYRHYNCHOS*) IN GENERAL TRIAS, CAVITE

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated the occurrence of protozoans *Cryptosporidium spp.* and *Giardia lamblia* among Mallard ducks found in General Trias, Cavite. Forty fecal samples were collected from the forty duck hosts through the hand-grab technique. Fecal material was prepared using Formalin Ether Concentration Technique and was subjected to the Meriflour rapid kit test. An x^2 (chi-squared) test was used for the determination of the significant differences in percent occurrence on the age and sex of the hosts. Results showed that half of the hosts were infected, with the highest infection among young females (20%), followed by adult females and young females (15%), and none among young male ducks. Out of the forty duck hosts, sixteen (40%) were positive with *Cryptosporidium spp.* and four (10%) were positive with *Giardia lamblia*. Out of the 56 identifiable *Cryptosporidium spp.* oocyst and *Giardia lamblia* cyst, young Mallard ducks were the most infected (75%), while the male species obtained the highest percentage occurrence of infection for both *Cryptosporidium* oocyst (51.79%) and *Giardia* cyst (23.21%). The uses of sewage effluent and snails as food were considered to be the main factors of infection. In conclusion, there is no significant difference ($P<0.05$) in the percentage occurrence of *Cryptosporidium spp.* oocyst and *Giardia lamblia* cyst between young and adult, and between male and female Mallard ducks.

TABLE OF CONTENTS