



**PREVALENCE OF HELMINTHS IN THE DIGESTIVE TRACT AND
SELECTED ORGANS OF FREE-RANGING *Gallus gallus Domesticus*
(DOMESTIC CHICKEN) FROM SELECTED BACKYARD FARMS
IN CAVITE**

**An Undergraduate Research Proposal Presented to
the Biological Sciences Department
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Bachelor of Science in Biology
Major in Human Biology**

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ABSTRACT

This research determined the prevalence and parasitic load of helminth parasites that were found in the digestive tract and selected organs of free-ranging *Gallus gallus domesticus* (domestic chicken) from selected backyard farms in Cavite. It aimed to provide information on the occurrence and the parasitic load of helminthes in chickens. The standard protocol in dissecting chickens and in collecting helminths was done. A total of 1,421 helminth parasites were collected. All parasitized chickens harboured at least one of the seven helminth species. Two classes of helminths were present: Class Nematoda (*Heterakis gallinarum*, *Tetrameres* sp., Family Ascarididae, *Dispharynx spiralis*, *Dispharynx* sp., *Ascaridia galli*) and Class Cestoda (*Raillietina echinobothrida*), while none from Class Trematoda. The prevalence of helminths was 78% which indicates high prevalence. Different levels of parasitism was also observed: single (8%), double (26%) and multiple (44%). Three combinations in double parasitism are present; *Heterakis gallinarum* and *Raillietina echinobothrida*; *Heterakis gallinarum* and *Tetrameres* sp.; *Tetrameres* sp. and *Raillietina echinobothrida*. In multiple parasitism, some have three to four combinations. Out of all the combinations in double and multiple parasitism, the following parasites were common: *Heterakis gallinarum*, *Raillietina echinobothrida* and *Tetrameres* sp.



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