

**DIVERSITY AND OCCURRENCE OF INTESTINAL HELMINTHS
IN SCINCID LIZARDS OF MTS. PALAYPALAY /
MATAAS NA GULOD NATIONAL PARK,
LUZON ISLAND, PHILIPPINES**



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ABSTRACT

Helminth parasites, comprised of over 50% of the invertebrates, affects lower forms of vertebrates. Amphibians and Reptiles such as lizards which are said to be the “tropic indicator” are affected by helminthic parasites influx causing population to decline. This study determines the diversity and occurrence of intestinal helminthes of Scincid lizards in Mts. Palaypalay/ Mataas na Gulod National Park located at Maragondon / Ternate in Cavite and Nasugbu in Batangas, Philippines.

Scincid lizards were collected during daytime through hand grabbing, microhabitat sampling, and pitfall trap. Nine individuals belonging to four species namely: *Mabuya multicarinata*, *Sphenomorphus jagori*, *Lipinia pulchella*, and *Sphenomorphus* spp. were collected. The Scincid hosts were sacrificed, harbored intestines, stained using lacto-aceto orcein and intensified using iodine solution, and mounted using Canada balsam. Each prepared slide was viewed to observe for the presence of parasites. The parasites observed were from Phyla Platyhelminthes (flatworms), Aschelminthes or Nematelminthes (roundworm), and Acanthocephala (thorny- headed worms). Phylum Nematelminthes has the highest prevalency from Genera *Capillaria*, *Rhabdias*, and *Pharyngodon*. Phylum Platyhelminthes is the second prevalent parasites mostly from Class Cestoda. There is also *Mesocestode* spp. recovered from some scincids. Phylum Acanthocephala is the least prevalent parasite among Scincids. However, the number and variation of parasites has no significant relationship with the length and the weight of the host Scincidae.

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