

Rodent diseases in Southeast Asia and Australia: inventory of recent surveys

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Abstract. We provide an inventory of rodent diseases that we have screened over the past decade in Southeast Asia and Australia. Our main interest is to provide baseline information for future epidemiological studies, particularly for potential rodent-borne zoonoses. We have identified a range of diseases circulating in rodent populations in both Australia and in Southeast Asia. The zoonotic diseases detected in Australia were *Streptobacillus moniliformis*, *Angiostrongylus cantonensis*, lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus, leptospirosis, rickettsia and cryptosporidia. The zoonotic diseases detected in Southeast Asia were hantaan virus and leptospirosis. The latter is drawn from less-intensive sampling of a subset of rodent diseases. We need to determine the occurrence of important rodent zoonoses such as leptospirosis, plague, hanta- and arena-viruses, and lungworm in agrarian communities and rat populations in selected regions of Asia. Once we have this information, then we will need to identify the main species of rodent that are reservoirs for each of the diseases in each region and examine the influence of population dynamics of and patterns of habitat use by these rodents on disease transmission.