

Seroprevalence and risk factors of *Trypanosoma evansi* infection in horses in Peninsular Malaysia

ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional study was designed to assess the seroprevalence and risk factors associated with *Trypanosoma evansi* infection among horses, using a total of 527 blood samples obtained from eight states in Peninsular Malaysia. A structured questionnaire was used to collect data on risk factors associated with *T. evansi* seroprevalence. The overall seroprevalence detected by card agglutination test for *T. evansi* (CATT/*T. evansi*) was 13.90% (73/527, CI: 11.2–17.1%). Female and exogenous horses showed a higher risk in association with the disease seroprevalence compared to other groups. The majority of the horse owners were not familiar with surra (85.30%). However, most of them were very cautious with the health of their animals. In conclusion, this study showed that *T. evansi* occurred in low frequency among horses in Peninsular Malaysia, and the good management system adopted by horse owners was probably responsible for the low *T. evansi* occurrence.

Keyword: *Trypanosoma evansi*; Horses; Seroprevalence; Peninsular Malaysia