

**NO ANGIOSTRONGYLUS CANTONENSIS (NEMATODA: METASTRONGYLIDAE) OBSERVED IN 108 RATS IN SAN JUAN, P. R.<sup>1</sup>**

Inquiries from some investigators are being received every now and then by the Department of Medical Zoology, School of Medicine, School of Tropical Medicine, University of Puerto Rico, concerning the presence or absence of *Angiostrongylus cantonensis* in San Juan, P. R.

*A. cantonensis*, a metastrongylid lungworm of the rat, has been reported to infect man in Formosa,<sup>2</sup> Thailand,<sup>3</sup> and Hawaii,<sup>4</sup> and rats in China, Thailand, Malaya, Australia and Formosa, Guam, Hawaii, Tahiti, Ponape, New Caledonia, New Hebrides and Loyalty, Marshall, and Truk Islands.<sup>5</sup>

Trapping of domestic rats in connection with other projects has afforded the opportunity to study this problem. One hundred and eight rats were collected from the districts of the Municipality of San Juan, known as La Perla (32 *Rattus norvegicus*, 2 *Rattus rattus*) and Santurce (72 *Rattus norvegicus*, 2 *Rattus rattus*) during the period of September 4, 1963 to February 5, 1964.

The rats were trapped alive by means of wooden box-traps and killed with ether, following the technique described by Fox and García-Moll.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Nomura and Lin, quoted by Hsieh, H. C., Outline of parasitic zoonoses in Taiwan, *Formosan Sci.* 13 99-108, 1959.

<sup>3</sup> Prommindaraj, K., Leelawongs, N., and Pradatsundarasar, A., Human angiostrongyliasis of the eye in Bangkok, *Amer. J. Trop. Med. & Hyg.* 11 759-61, 1962.

<sup>4</sup> Alicata, J. E., *Angiostrongylus cantonensis* (Nematoda: Metastrongylidae) as the causative agent of eosinophilic meningoencephalitis of man in Hawaii and Tahiti, *Can. J. Zool.* 40 15-8, 1962.

<sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, Experimental work on eosinophilic meningitis, *Plantation Health*, 28 (2) 17-23, 1963.

<sup>6</sup> Fox, I. and García-Moll, I., Rat ectoparasite surveys in relation to murine typhus fever in Puerto Rico, *Am. J. Trop. Med. & Hyg.* 10 (4) 566-73, 1961.

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Immediately after the rats were sacrificed, without any storage in a freezer whatsoever, the lungs and hearts were taken out of the bodies. They were pinned down in a dissecting pan half-filled with physiological salt solution, and the main branches of the pulmonary arteries opened up with a fine pair of scissors. No *A. cantonensis* was observed in any of the specimens.

*Delfín D. de León*  
*Department of Medical Zoology*  
*University of Puerto Rico*  
*San Juan, P.R.*