Abstract

The present study on the prevalence of *Cryptosporidium* and *Cyclospora* infection, from January to December 2005, was conducted among aborigines in southern Taiwan. The surveyed and monitored areas included eight montane townships at Pingtung county. The fecal specimens were collected twice each month, concentrated by Fomaldehyde-ether Sedimentation method and examined by Modified acid-fast stain. Of 2005 specimens, 95 (male: 53, female: 42) specimens were *Cryptosporidium*-positive reconfirmed by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. The infection rate is 4.74% (male: 6.08%, female: 3.71%) and there is no significant difference between infection rate and genders. Of the *Cryptosporidium* infection, 0-9 ages had the highest infection rate (6.92%), followed by 30-39 ages (6.72%). There is significant difference between infection rate and age ($P<0.01$). No *Cyclospora* oocyst was found in all of the fecal specimens. At Pingtung and Kaohsiung counties, 58 water samples from 11 townships, 22 districts were collected. Of the 58 water samples, 19 samples from 7 townships, 9 districts were positive for *Cryptosporidium* by microscopy. The positive rate is 33% and all of the positive samples are from mineral water, neither simple tap water nor tap water. Based on our results, the infection of Cryptosporidiosis in residents was need to be taken account and the contamination of *Cryptosporidium* oocyst in mineral water among montane areas in southern Taiwan.

Keywords: *Cryptosporidium*, montane townships, fecal specimen, acid-fast stain.