

Abstract

A cross sectional study was to determine the prevalence of intestinal parasitic infection in hill-tribe schoolchildren in Chiang Rai Province. A total of 379 stool samples were examined by using the formalin-ether sedimentation concentration technique. One hundred and eight samples (28.5%) showed positive for intestinal parasitic infection, 20.84% of protozoa infection rate and 17.15% of helminth infection rate. The results harbored 1-4 species of parasites, with the most being single infection (70.37%), followed by multiple infection (29.63%). The most common helminth infection was hookworm (8.97%) followed by *Ascaris lumbricoides* (4.75%) and *Strongyloides stercoralis* (2.64%). The most common protozoa infection was *Entamoeba coli* (12.13%) followed by *Endolimax nana*, *Giardia lamblia* (3.96%) and *Entamoeba histolytica* (0.80%). From this study, intestinal parasitic infection is still an important public health problem. The monitoring and control program for intestinal parasites and prevention of re-infection should be implemented.

Keywords : intestinal parasite, hill-tribe, prevalence