

The local people in the Northeast of Thailand are fond of consuming many kinds of fresh water crabs obtained from natural sources or bought from the markets.

Niyaneer, P, described 4 groups of fresh water crabs and their distribution all over Thailand. Vajarasthira, S, reported that the crabs act as intermediate hosts of the lung fluke *Paragonimus*.

Kawashima noted that some kinds of crabs harboured the metacercariae *Paragonimus westermani*. His work was carried out in Malaysia.

Up to the present time in Loei Province, there have been 2 kinds of crabs *Somaniathelphusa dugasti* harboured *Paragonimus siamensis* metacercariae and unidentified parasites; *S. brandti* had no kinds of helminths

In Phitsanulok Province, cases of Paragonimiasis have been reported by the public health centre. A survey of prevalence rates of *Paragonimus* and other helminths in fresh water crabs was carried out by the author. A new species, *Potamon* sp was collected and had infection by *Paragonimus* and other unidentified helminths. Most of the *Paragonimus* sp in *Potamon* sp were concentrated in the internal organs, followed by the gills and muscles respectively. The greatest infection rate of *Paragonimus* sp in *Potamon* sp was observed in crabs with carapace of 21-25 mm. *Somaniathelphusa faxoni* and *S. dugasti* had no kinds of helminths.

The morphology of the metacercariae were identified as *Paragonimus heterotremus* as described by Vajarasthira and Miyazaki

Data obtained will contribute not only to academic knowledge but also to the future control and treatment of human parasites harboured by fresh water crabs.