

## PREVALENCE OF *CRYPTOSPORIDIUM* AND OTHER ENTERIC PARASITES AMONG WILD NON-HUMAN PRIMATES IN POLONNARUWA, SRI LANKA

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**Abstract.** Cryptosporidiosis is a rapidly emerging disease in the tropics. This is the first report of *Cryptosporidium* and other protozoan infections (*Entamoeba* spp., *Iodamoeba*, *Chilomastix*, and *Balantidium* spp.) in wild primates that inhabit the natural forest of Sri Lanka. It is unclear if non-human primates serve as a reservoir for these parasites under certain conditions. A cross-sectional coprologic survey among 125 monkeys (89 toque macaques, 21 gray langurs, and 15 purple-faced langurs) indicated that *Cryptosporidium* was detected in all three primate species and was most common among monkeys using areas and water that had been heavily soiled by human feces and livestock. Most macaques (96%) shedding *Cryptosporidium* oocysts were co-infected with other protozoans and important anthroponotic gastrointestinal parasites (e.g., *Enterobius* and *Strongyloides*). The transmission of these parasites among primates in the wild may have important implications for public health as well as wildlife conservation management.