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Potential use of selected ethnoveterinary plants in Malaysia as anthelmintic: Controlling intestinal parasites in small ruminants

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Increase use of chemical drugs has developed anthelmintic resistance in small ruminants. Most of the chemical drugs in live stock are mainly to prevent helminth infections. Yet, those helminths with peculiar pathogenic features such as intestinal parasites often get the advantages from the animals and the animal breeders often ignore this things. In most cases, symptoms are not obvious at initial level but noticeable symptoms are observed in animals at high grade of infected state. Thus, animal breeders often use strong chemotherapy to control helminths in animals already at infected state and this may pose threats to human health. Usage of ethnobotany, traditional medicine, alternative medicine and biological control measures are most advisable to tackle such situation. We are aiming for alternative therapeutic approaches by using selected traditional ethnoveterinary plants with pharmacological properties. Impact of this research will be on small farmers who dominated most of the farms in East Coast region Malaysia. High recurrence of parasitic infection despite the use of widespread chemical drugs among the small farmers will be a solid basis for conducting this research in East Coast Malaysia. Plant extracts used for the treatment of helminth infections will keep the animal safe and interact directly with the parasite and affect the parasite reproduction growth. Usually, a single ethnoveterinary plant species exerts antiparasitic effect by impairing a particular biological process (eg reproduction, growth of parasite etc). If combined ethnoveterinary plants that affect different pathways of parasite life cycle, such herbal mixtures could be more effective compared to individual plant species in treatment of helminths. However, in order to formulate such herbal mixtures, biological and biochemical properties of those herbs need to be investigated. Our current projects will look into this matter to select a promising ethnoveterinary plant species.

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