Social culture aspects of filariasis caused by the nonperiodic form of Brugia malayi in Mahakam Delta, East Kalimantan

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ABSTRACT  Nonperiodic or aperiodic form of Brugia malayi Lichtenstein was recently discovered by Sudjadi as a new subspecies of human filarial parasite in East Kalimantan in addition to previously known the nocturnally periodic or subperiodic form. The disease was noted sylvatic and commonly found among indigenous Dayak people who earn their living by shifting cultivation of paddy rice from place to place in deep forest such in Krayan area, Long Ikis district. Although in much lower endemicity, the human filarial infections were also found among transmigrants from Java such in Petung UPT (unit of transmigration resettlement), Penajam district, as well as longstanding dwellers of Bugis & Banjar tribes in Telokdalam and Dondang villages, Muarajawa District, situated in Mahakam delta area. This paper, however, describes the social cultural pattern of population at risk of filariasis among the longstanding dwellers in the Mahakam delta. From in-depth study or survey using questionnaire, social behavior indicating relatively less exposure to mansonioides mosquito-vector bites, or less filarial infections were noted in Mahakam delta. In the context of filarial evolution or host specificity, however, these all findings act as another evidence showing that the nonperiodic form of B.malayi in East Kalimantan still to be more zoophylic or sylvatic than other Brugia types.