

Tinjil island, a natural habitat breeding facility of simian retrovirus-free *Macaca fascicularis*

J. Pamungkas¹, Dr. D. Sajuthi^{1*}, P. A. Lelana¹, D. Iskandriati¹, B. Joeniman¹, R. C. Kyes², G. H. Knitter³, R. A. Watanabe³

¹Primate Research Center at the Institut Pertanian Bogor, Bogor, Indonesia; ²Department of Comparative Medicine, Bowman School of Medicine at the Wake Forest University, Winston Salem, North Carolina; ³Regional Primate Research Center at the University of Washington, Seattle

*Correspondence to D. Sajuthi, Primate Research Centre at the Institut Pertanian Bogor, Bogor, Indonesia

Abstract

Institut Pertanian Bogor (Bogor Agricultural University) has established a collaborative agreement with the Indonesian Ministry of State for Population and Environment and the United States Primate Research Consortium, consisting of the University of Washington Regional Primate Research Center (UW-RPRC), the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center (ORPRC), and the Bowman Gray School of Medicine at the Wake Forest University, to populate and manage a breeding facility of longtailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*) on Tinjil island, a 6 km² island off the southern coast of West Java, Indonesia.

Screening protocols have been established to select only simian retrovirus (SRV)-free animals for the colony. Animals originating in either West Java or Sumatra were individually caged and screened over a period of 3-5 months for the presence of SRV and tuberculosis. Whole blood specimens were taken from seronegative animals for virus isolation. Two months after the first screening, all negative animals were retested for SRV antibody and virus isolation. All animals remaining negative after this testing procedure and which have at least four consecutive negative TB tests were transported to the island. To date, 1,306 animals have been screened with 478 released to the island, and at least 750 babies were born on the island. Three batches of progeny of 45-50 juveniles each have been retrieved from the island, and are being used in AIDS-related research projects. © 1994 Wiley-Liss, Inc.

Keywords:

Macaca fascicularis • island breeding • viral screening • TB tests