

# Towards a cysticercosis-free tropical resort island: A historical overview of taeniasis/cysticercosis in Bali

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## ABSTRACT

Taeniasis and cysticercosis are known to be endemic in several Indonesian islands, although relatively little recent epidemiological data are available. As most Indonesian people are Muslims, taeniasis/cysticercosis caused by the pork tapeworm, *TAENIA SOLIUM*, has a restricted presence in non-Muslim societies and is endemic only among some Hindu communities on the island of Bali. Bali has long been known to be endemic for taeniasis/cysticercosis; almost a century ago levels of cysticercosis of 20–30% were described in cattle and 2–3% in pigs. Few studies of taeniasis/cysticercosis were undertaken in Bali prior to a series of research programs commenced since the 1990s. Both *TAENIA SAGINATA* and *T. solium* continue to be endemic in Bali. Molecular studies have revealed that all *T. SAGINATA*-like tapeworms detected in Bali are *T. SAGINATA*. No evidence has been found for the presence of *TAENIA ASIATICA* in Bali. Economic, sanitary and education improvements across much of the island over the past decades have been associated with a decline in the amount of transmission of *T. solium* such that

the parasite now seems to be restricted to the eastern part of the island, a small area on the northeastern slope of Mt. Agung, the highest mountain in Bali. The living environment including sanitation and hygiene condition in this endemic area remains relatively poor especially during the half-year dry season, and pigs continue to roam freely. In this review, historical records and ongoing projects towards elimination of taeniasis/cysticercosis in Bali are reviewed to provide a better understanding of the present situation of taeniasis/cysticercosis in Bali towards a future, cysticercosis-free tropical resort island.

## 1. Introduction

The term taeniasis/cysticercosis refers to infections in the definitive and intermediate hosts, respectively, of a number of species of taeniid cestode parasite of the genus *TAENIA*. Humans act as definitive hosts for three species – *TAENIA SOLIUM*, *TAENIA SAGINATA* and *TAENIA ASIATICA*, with

typical intermediate hosts being pigs, cattle and pigs, respectively (Ito and Budke, 2014; Ito et al., 2003).

Indonesia has long been known to be endemic for both *T. solium* and *T. SAGINATA* (Bonne et al., 1940; De Seze et al., 1938). Recognition of *T. solium* in Bali was highlighted by its being identified as the source of the introduction of the parasite into West Papua (= former Irian Jaya)

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following a gift from Indonesian President Soeharto of pigs from Bali to the Ekari people who were apparently uncertain whether to support Papua becoming part of Indonesia in the United Nations-directed 'Act of Free Choice' held in 1969 (Desowitz, 1981). In 1973, Tumada and Margono identified almost 10% of people living in the Paniai highlands as having taeniasis (Tumada and Margono, 1973a, 1973b), shortly after which Tumada, Subianto and their colleagues (Gajdusek, 1978; Subianto *et al.*, 1978; Tumada and Subianto, 1974) described severe burns in neurocysticercosis patients from West Papua. More recent epidemiological studies have delineated the extent of *T. solium* transmission in West Papua (Ito *et al.*, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005a, 2005b, 2014; Margono *et al.*, 2001a, 2001b, 2003, 2005, 2006; Salim *et al.*, 2009; Subahar *et al.*, 2001; Swastika *et al.*, unpublished; Wandra *et al.*, 2000, 2003; Widarso *et al.*, 1999, 2001), in Papua New Guinea (Fritzsche *et al.*, 1990; Ito *et al.*, 2004; McManus, 1995; Owen, 2006), and on the island, Bali (see below), and are also beginning to unravel the epidemiology of *T. SAGINATA* and *T. ASIATICA* in Bali and elsewhere in Indonesia.

The island of Bali is one of the 33 provinces of Indonesia, located in the tropics at 115° 42' East by 8° 50' South, with an area of about 5,600 km<sup>2</sup> (Sutisna *et al.*, 1999) (Fig. 1). In 2015 Bali's population was recorded to be 4.15 million (Center for Statistical Data of Bali Province, 2015, unpublished data), the majority (93.4%) of whom are followers of the Hindu religion, with the remainder being Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, and others (Wandra *et al.*, 2007a, 2007b). Administratively, Bali is divided into eight districts: Buleleng, Jembrana, Tabanan, Badung, Gianyar, Bangli, Klungkung and Karangasem; Denpasar is the capital city, located in Badung district (Center for Statistical Data of Bali Province, 2015) (Fig. 1). Approximately 80% of Bali's population lives in rural areas where personal and environmental hygiene, particularly human fecal disposal sanitation, is generally not adequate (Sutisna, 1989, 1998, 2001, 2002; Sutisna *et al.*, 1999; Theis *et al.*, 1994; Wandra *et al.*, 2011, 2015; Waruju, 1988; Widjana and Kapti, 1983).

Most of the Indonesian population is Muslim (87.18%) (Wandra *et al.*, 2013). As taeniasis in humans caused by *T. solium* is transmitted through eating infected pork, religious restrictions on the keeping of pigs and eating pig meat have limited the national impact of *T. solium* in most of Indonesia (Margono *et al.*, 2002, 2005). Exceptions include Papua (former Irian Jaya) where the much of the local population is Christian (Coker-Vann *et al.*, 1981, 1984; Desowitz *et al.*, 1977; Diwan *et al.*, 1982; Gajdusek, 1977; Gunawan *et al.*, 1975; Salim *et al.*, 2009; Simanjuntak *et al.*, 1977, 1997; Subianto *et al.*, 1978; Theis *et al.*, 1994; Tumada and Margono, 1973a, 1973b; Wandra *et al.*, 2000, 2003; Widarso *et al.*, 1999, 2001) and Bali where the majority of the population is Hindu.

Cysticercosis in pigs and cattle was reported in Indonesia as long ago as 1928 in the doctoral thesis of Le Coultre (1928) from the Rijksuniversiteit te Utrecht. While Le Coultre referred to the presence of both cattle and pig cysticercosis from several different Indonesian islands, most original research data that he obtained came from Bali, where cysticerci were found in 20–30% of cattle and 2–3% of pigs. Other than a small number of reports concerning neurocysticercosis in patients from Bali, during the long period between Le Coultre's study and the 1990's, there is little other information about taeniasis/cysticercosis in Bali (Tables 1–3) except a government Veterinary Bulletin (Anonymous, 1974–1977), and Simanjuntak *et al.* (1977). The continued presence of *T. solium* in Bali was suggested by Desowitz *et al.* (1977) and Diwan *et al.* (1982) who indicated that the *T. solium* cysticerci which they used for preparation of diagnostic antigens were collected from pigs in Bali.

During the 1990 collaborative projects were established between Udayana University in Bali and both Salford University, UK (1995–1997) and Asahikawa Medical University, Japan (2002-present). The first of these projects aimed to provide training for staff of Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, Udayana University on ELISA,

coproantigen techniques for diagnosis of taeniasis/cysticercosis. The training was carried out in the UK followed by a joint study on taeniasis/cysticercosis in Bali (Sutisna *et al.*, 1999). The second project aimed mainly to carry out joint epidemiological studies on the transmission of taeniasis/cysticercosis in Bali with transfer of serological and molecular technologies to the staff of the same department at Udayana University (Ito *et al.*, 2000, 2005a). An aim of the Japanese-sponsored program was the establishment of a Research and Reference Center for taeniasis/cysticercosis in Indonesia, with a longer-term goal of elimination of *T. solium* taeniasis/cysticercosis from Bali, and towards the control of taeniasis/cysticercosis in West Papua and Papua New Guinea. It has been revealed that the endemic areas of *T. solium* taeniasis/cysticercosis in Bali are restricted principally, if not entirely, to the northeastern slope of Mt. Agung (Swastika *et al.*, 2012, 2016, 2017; Wandra *et al.*, 2015) (Fig. 1).

## 2. Origins of *Taenia* species in Bali

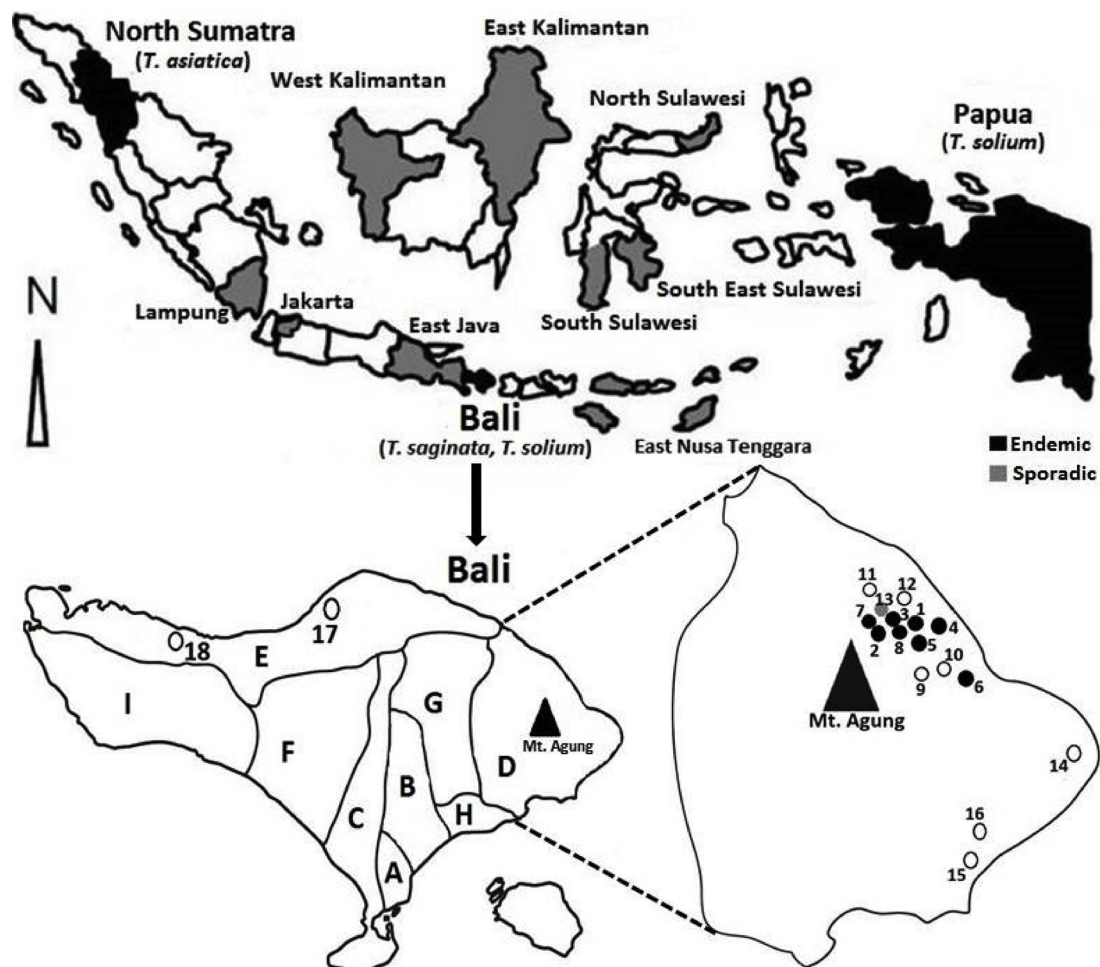
There is no clear evidence about when *T. SAGINATA* or *T. solium* may have been introduced to Indonesia, or to Bali in particular. The Indonesian islands have a history of habitation by hominids for hundreds of thousands of years (Brown *et al.*, 2004; Heinsohn, 2001). Indigenous hunter-gatherer communities in Indonesia are believed to have been replaced by farming communities during the Austronesian expansion into the Pacific and Indonesia, sometime after about 4,000 years BC (Bellwood *et al.*, 2006). These groups had a well-established domestication of several animal species, including pigs and dogs. However, the Indonesian Islands have several indigenous suid species and the banteng, *Bos JAVANICUS* (Groves, 2006; Heinsohn, 2001), which could have provided hosts for *TAENIA* species transmitted by early hominins or modern humans over a substantially longer period than only the last 6,000 years.

Outside Indonesia, *T. SAGINATA* and *T. solium* have a long evolutionary history with hominids. Both species are considered to have evolved from parasites of carnivores and independently underwent host switching to humans as definitive hosts (de Queiroz and Alkire, 1998). This event is believed to have occurred prior to the development of agriculture and animal domestication (Hoberg *et al.*, 2001). Evidently, host switching reoccurred in *T. SAGINATA* in Asia, leading to the sister species *T. ASIATICA* which prefers parasitising the liver of pigs in its metacestode stage. Both *T. SAGINATA* and *T. solium* have been recorded from several wild bovid and suid species, respectively (Abouladze, 1964), and it seems likely that human taeniasis travelled with humans out of Africa. *T. solium* evolved into distinct genotypes in Asia and Africa (Nakao *et al.*, 2002). In relation to these parasites infecting do-

mestic livestock species, cattle are believed to have been domesticated from Aurochs in two independent events, one occurring approximately 10,500 years ago in the region of Anatolia and Iraq in the Near East (Bollongino *et al.*, 2012; Loftus *et al.*, 1994) and the other at least 7,000 years ago in South Asia (Bradley *et al.*, 1998; Loftus *et al.*, 1994). Old-World and New-World suids diverged approximately 35 million years ago and a variety of species have been, and remain, endemic in the islands of south-east Asia. *Sus SCROFA* was domesticated independently in or around Anatolia approximately 10,000 years ago, and in China about 8,000 years ago (Frantz *et al.*, 2016).

It is possible that human-transmitted *TAENIA* have been present in Indonesia for at least 40,000 years, if not considerably longer. The presence of early hominids as well as native bovine and suid species in Indonesia raise the possibility that the presence of *TAENIA* species may have pre-dated the arrival of Austronesian farmers into the region. In-depth genotyping of *TAENIA* from Indonesia may shed light on whether the parasites currently present in Indonesia may have

been present for a long period and isolated from other Old-World parasite populations, or possibly arrived with the Austronesian expansion or more recently.



**Fig. 1.** Map of Indonesia showing the endemic situation on *T. solium* cysticercosis (from Wandra et al., 2013) and Bali with the updated data (from Wandra et al., 2013; Swastika et al., 2016, 2017, unpublished data). Indonesian map shows *T. solium* endemic areas and sporadic data are deposited with *T. asiatica* in North Sumatra where *T. solium* is rare so far as we know, and both *T. saginata* and *T. solium* coendemic in Bali are stressed on the map. All other areas either sporadic or endemic are indicating *T. solium*. A–I are 9 districts in Bali: Denpasar, Gianyar, Badung, Karangasem, Buleleng, Tabanan, Bangli, Klungkung and Jembrana, respectively. Denpasar is the capital city of Bali. Taeniasis of *T. saginata* is not rare or rather common in Denpasar, Gianyar, Badung close to Denpasar. It may be affected higher income and people prefer to eat “beef *LAWAR*”. Taeniasis/cysticercosis of *T. solium* is exceptionally endemic in the mountainous rural area in Karangasem. However, the endemic area is focal and located on the northeastern slope of Mt. Agung: Numbers of 1–13 in Karangasem (see Swastika et al., 2016). So far as we have examined a total of 13 Banjars (Br.) on the northeastern slope of Mt. Agung (Br. Pangeno (1), Br. Batugiling (2), Br. Bahel (3), Br. Batudawa Kelod (4), Br. Batudawa Kaja (5), Br. Bingin (6), Br. Bhuana Kusuma (7), Br. Pandan Sari (8), Br. Pule Samuh (9), Br. Ulun Desa (10), Br. Bantas (11), Br. Juntal Kelod (12) and Br. Tegal Panti (13)). *T. solium* carriers have been confirmed from (1) – (8) (shown in closed circles), whereas no carrier was confirmed from (9) – (12) (in open circles). One *T. solium* taeniasis carrier confirmed in Gianyar 2016 was born and lived in (13) shown in Karangasem. Br. Bugbug (14), Br. Seraya (15) and abattoir in the City, Amlapura (16), all pigs examined are free of *T. solium*. Singaraja in Buleleng district (17) was the Capital city of Bali from 1849 until 1959. In Buleleng, no one remembers *T. solium* cysticerci in pigs over the past two decades. Living environment in the mountainous areas in Gerokgak (18) appears much better with running water supply even during the dry season.

### 3. Food habits of Balinese people in relation to taeniasis

Balinese people are fond of eating “*LAWAR*”, a local traditional food made of raw minced pork or beef, mixed with grated coconut, spices, vegetables (usually chopped boiled young jackfruit or long bean) and raw blood. “Pork *LAWAR*” is commonly prepared and consumed collectively during religious ceremonies in each community or by members of households on Balinese holidays. It is also sold daily in many food stalls (Fig. 2a, b). On the other hand, “beef *LAWAR*” does not form part of the typical diet consumed by Hindu, nevertheless it is sold in food stalls (Margono et al., 2001b, 2005; Sutisna, 1989, 2002; Swastika et al., 2017; Wandra et al., 2006a, 2011). “Beef *LAWAR*” is more popular in urbanized or semi-urbanized areas in Bali, whereas “pork *LAWAR*” is popular all over Bali. Recent trends in preparation of “pork *LAWAR*” are using boiled pork (Fig. 2b) rather than uncooked pork (Fig. 2a), whereas “beef *LAWAR*” continues to utilize uncooked

beef. Both “pork

*LAWAR*” and “beef *LAWAR*” have 2 types, namely “*LAWAR BARAK*” (red Lawar) made of raw pork or beef with fresh blood, and “*LAWAR putih*” (white Lawar) made of well-grilled pork or beef with no blood.

In addition to “*LAWAR*”, another traditional dish called “*Komoh*” used to be very popular especially in Buleleng district where the former capital city, Singaraja, is located (Fig. 1). Singaraja was founded by the King Anak Agung Panji Sakti on 30 March 1604. In its original version, “*Komoh*” was made of chopped raw pig liver mixed with spices, then added with water-diluted fresh blood to make it like soup (Fig. 2c). This special dish used to be eaten together with “*LAWAR*” and other traditional dishes during community ritual celebrations. Unlike “*LAWAR*” which remains very popular for most Balinese people until today, “*Komoh*” now is less frequently made as in the past, possibly due to people's increasing awareness of some possible health hazards from raw blood. In “*Komoh*”, large amount of raw blood is used as the main ingredient to make soup. It is different from “pork *LAWAR*” which uses a



**Table 1**

Prevalences of taeniasis reported based on field surveys in Bali, Indonesia. 1978–2004.

Year	Area surveyed	Prevalence of taeniasis (%)	Methods	Reference
1978	Trunyan Village, Bangli District Sukawati Village, Gianyar District Padangsambian Village, Denpasar District	0.8 (1/131) 1.0 (2/199) 3.4 (7/208)	Formalin-ether	Rasidi <i>et al.</i> (1979)
1982	Abiansemal Sub-district, Badung District	2.0 (52/2,538)	Anamnesis	Widjana and Kapti (1983)
1982	Penatih Village, Badung District	23.0 (41/178)	Anamnesis, direct smear	Bakta and Soewarno (1983)
1987–1988	Banjar Kelod, Renon Villages, Denpasar District	7.1 (37/515)	Anamnesis, formalin-ether, perianal swab	Sutisna (1990)
1994–1995	Pamesan, Ketewel Villages, Gianyar District Batuaji, Batubulan Villages, Gianyar District	1.29 (2/155) 1.43 (1/70)	Direct smear, coproantigen- ELISA	Sutisna <i>et al.</i> (1999)
2002	Penarukan, Kerambitan Villages, Tabanan District Ketewel Village, Gianyar District	0 (0/190) 25.6 (32/125)	Anamnesis, direct smear	Wandra <i>et al.</i> (2006a)
2004	Ketewel Village, Gianyar District Jagapati Village, Badung District Penatih Village, Badung District	27.5 (14/51) 1.1 (1/94) 7.0 (9/128)	Anamnesis, direct smear	Wandra <i>et al.</i> (2006a)

small amount of fresh blood just enough to mix minced pork, grated coconut to give the red color and specific flavor. Today, people make “Komoh” without raw blood but either of chopped pig’s liver, pork, beef, chicken or sliced skin, mixed with spices and water or meat broth, then all boiled. “Komoh” is normally eaten with “LAWAR”, “SATE”, and other dishes during ritual events. When it was made of raw or under cooked material, the liver without any other viscera were used with raw blood.

#### 4. History of the studies on taeniasis/cysticercosis in Bali

For reason of simplicity, we outline this brief account of the “history” into three main sections: 1) studies on taeniasis, 2) studies on cysticercosis and 3) perspectives or ideas towards the establishment of a program for prevention and control of taeniasis/cysticercosis in Bali.

##### 4.1. Studies on TAENIASIS in BALI

Prevalences of taeniasis based on field surveys in Bali from 1978 until 2004 are summarized in Table 1. In another report, Wandra and co-workers (Wandra *et al.*, 2015) summarized that results of field surveys done in the period of 2002 to 2014 covering all eight districts of Bali revealed that taeniasis cases had been detected from four locations namely Denpasar and the districts of Badung, Gianyar and Karangasem, but no cases were found in the other 5 districts i.e. Bangli, Tabanan, Jembrana, Klungkung, Buleleng.

**Table 2**

Data of seroprevalences of cysticercosis reported in humans and pigs in Bali, Indonesia. 1981–2016.

Year	Place/District	Human	Pig	Reference
1981	Tenganan/Karangasem	20.8% (11/53)	NS	Coker-Vann <i>et al.</i> , 1981
1994	All over Bali	12.6% (94/746)	NS	Theis <i>et al.</i> , 1994
1998	Pamesan/Gianyar	5.2% (6/115)	NS	Sutisna <i>et al.</i> , 1999
2002–2013	Gianyar	2.7% (12/445)	NS	Wandra <i>et al.</i> , 2015
2014	Gianyar	7.1% (1/14)	NS	Swastika <i>et al.</i> , unpublished data
2004	Badung	0.0% (0/91)	NS	Wandra <i>et al.</i> , 2015
2004–2010	Denpasar	0.0% (0/119)	NS	Wandra <i>et al.</i> , 2015
2007	Bangli	0.0% (0/32)	NS	Wandra <i>et al.</i> , 2015
2008	Tabanan	0.0% (0/42)	NS	Wandra <i>et al.</i> , 2015
2008	Jembrana	0.0% (0/84)	NS	Wandra <i>et al.</i> , 2015
2009	Klungkung	0.0% (0/100)	NS	Wandra <i>et al.</i> , 2015
2009	Buleleng	0.0% (0/47)	NS	Wandra <i>et al.</i> , 2015
2006	Karangasem (urban)	2.8% (1/36)	NS	Wandra <i>et al.</i> , 2015
2011–2013	Karangasem (rural)	5.3% (27/507)	13.1 (43/329)	Wandra <i>et al.</i> , 2015
2014	Karangasem	4.2% (5/118)	NS	Swastika <i>et al.</i> , unpublished data
2015	Karangasem	1.9% (4/207)	NS	Swastika <i>et al.</i> , unpublished data
2016	Karangasem	3.1% (6/193)	NS	Swastika <i>et al.</i> , unpublished data

##### 4.2. Species IDENTIFICATION

###### 4.2.1. Taenia solium vs Taenia saginata

Field surveys that have involved the recovery of tapeworms from taeniasis patients have allowed differentiation of the worms as being either *T. solium* or *T. SAGINATA* or *T. ASIATICA*. Early studies, such as those of Bakta and Soewarno (1983), Koesharjono *et al.* (1987), Sutisna (1990), all in Bali, and Cross *et al.* (1976), Depary (2000, 2003), Depary and Kosman (1991), Fan *et al.* (1988, 1989, 1990a, 1992), Kosin *et al.* (1972, 1988), Kosman *et al.* (1988), all in Samosir Island, North Su-matra, were unaware at the time of the existence of *T. ASIATICA*.

Identification of the species was based on morphology of gravid proglottids i.e. the number of lateral main uterus branches or the pre-sence/absence of an armed rostellum on the scolex. For this reason, these *T. SAGINATA*-like worms were diagnosed as being *T. SAGINATA*. In Bali, Bakta and Soewarno (1983) examined 9 *TAENIA* worms and identified 8 *T. SAGINATA* and 1 *T. solium*. Koesharjono *et al.* (1987) examined 54 *TAENIA* worms and identified all were *T. SAGINATA*. Sutisna (1990) examined 38 *TAENIA* worms in a study in Renon in Denpasar city and identified 37 *T. SAGINATA* and 1 *T. solium*. In another field survey in Banjar Pamesan, in Ketewel subdistrict, and Banjar Batuaji in Batubulan subdistrict in Gianyar district, Sutisna *et al.* (1999) examined 3 *TAENIA* worms and identified 2 *T. SAGINATA* and 1 *T. solium* (Table 1). More recent studies have employed molecular techniques, allowing differentiation between *T. SAGINATA* AND *T. ASIATICA*. Wandra *et al.* (2015) undertook epidemiological surveys in the eight districts of Bali, and in

**Table 1**  
NS: No samples.



Table 3

Summarized data of cysticercosis in Bali, 1974–2010 (NCC: neurocysticercosis, DCC: disseminated cysticercosis, and OCC: ocular cysticercosis).

Year/ References	Hospital (H) or area/ number of cases/ ethnicity	Diagnosis	Methods of examination	Main symptoms
1974/ <a href="#">Ngoerah (1975)</a>	Wangaya H/4 cases/ 3 Balinese, 1 Chinese	DCC	X-ray, anatomical pathology	epileptic seizures, meningeal irritation, subcutaneous and cutaneous nodules
1995–1997/ <a href="#">Sudewi and Nuartha (1998)</a>	Sanglah H/25 cases/ all Balinese	NCC	CT Scan	epileptic seizures, headaches, unconsciousness
2003–2005/ <a href="#">Sudewi et al. (2008)</a>	Sanglah H/5 cases/ all Balinese	DCC (1) NCC (4)	CT Scan, anatomical pathology	epileptic seizures, headaches, unconsciousness, subcutaneous nodules (DCC)
2004/ <a href="#">Wandra et al. (2011)</a>	Gianyar/3 cases/ all Balinese	NCC	CT Scan, serology	epileptic seizures, headaches, unconsciousness (2), subcutaneous nodules (1)
2007/ <a href="#">Wandra et al. (2016)<sup>#</sup></a>	Gianyar/1 case/ Balinese	NCC in <i>T. SAGINATA</i> taeniasis case	CT Scan, serology	epileptic seizures after PZQ <sup>+</sup> treatment for <i>T. SAGINATA</i>
2009/ <a href="#">Sudewi et al. (unpublished)</a>	Sanglah H/8 cases/ all Balinese	NCC	CT Scan, serology	epileptic seizures, headaches, unconsciousness
2010/ <a href="#">Swastika et al. (2012)</a>	Indera H/1 case/ Balinese	OCC	Anatomical pathology, mtDNA, serology	redness, swelling, pain, cyst in the left eye
2010/ <a href="#">Wandra et al. (2015)<sup>#</sup></a>	Gianyar/3 cases/ all Balinese	NCC (1) <sup>§</sup> Cysticercosis (2) <sup>¶</sup> in <i>T. SAGINATA</i> taeniasis cases	Serology, CT Scan	asymptomatic

<sup>†</sup>Praziquantel.<sup>#</sup>Through surveys for tapeworms in the community ([Swastika et al., 2017](#)). As *T. SAGINATA* was only species confirmed from Gianyar from 2002 onwards, we at first used PZQ<sup>+</sup> until we faced this NCC case in 2007 as dual infection case with intestinal taeniasis with *T. SAGINATA* and asymptomatic NCC. After the accidental seizure attack caused after PZQ treatment was confirmed, we stopped using PZQ and used niclosamide.<sup>§,¶</sup>These three cases were suspected by serological screening at first. <sup>§</sup>was confirmed as NCC by CT Scan, whereas <sup>¶</sup>were not confirmed by CT Scan and suspected as cysticercosis but not NCC.

Denpasar city, during 2002–2014 and examined 129 tapeworms ex-pelled from 129 tapeworm carriers by mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA). The results confirmed all tapeworms identified in the study were *T. SAGINATA*.

In contrast, in surveys carried out in 2011–2014 in a rural remote area of Kubu sub-district on the northeastern slope of Mt. Agung in Karangasem district of Bali, they obtained a total of 13 tapeworms from 13 tapeworm carriers, and they all were identified as the Asian geno-type of *T. solium* by the same molecular technique ([Wandra et al., 2015](#)). The data revealed that all taeniasis cases either by *T. SAGINATA* (n = 129) or *T. solium* (n = 13) were solitary cases. Additional cases have been recorded until 2017 and discussed below ([Swastika et al., unpublished](#)).

#### 4.2.2. Taenia asiatica

*TAENIA ASIATICA* is considered a sister species of *T. SAGINATA* based on mitochondrial gene analysis ([Bowles and McManus, 1994](#); [Eom and Rim, 1993](#); [Fan, 1988](#); [Fan et al., 1988](#); [Hoberg et al., 2000](#); [Ito et al., 2003](#); [McManus and Bowles, 1994](#); [Simanjuntak et al., 1997](#); [Zarlenga et al., 1991](#)), with the two species being morphologically similar with the exception of the presence of rostellum in the scolex of *T. ASIATICA*.

([Fan, 1988](#); [Fan et al., 1988](#)). The life cycles of the parasites differ with the predominate intermediate host (pig vs cattle) and organ tropism (viscera vs muscle). However, recent molecular studies on *T. ASIATICA* which have included both mitochondrial and nuclear gene analyses have revealed that many *T. ASIATICA* circulating in Asia, including Sa-mosir Island in Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Lao PDR, China and Korea do not correspond to the pig transmitted *T. ASIATICA* described originally from Taiwan. Instead, these are hybrid-derived descendants of *T. ASIATICA* and *T. SAGINATA* ([Okamoto et al., 2007, 2010](#); [Yamane et al., 2012, 2013](#)). The intermediate host preference and tissue tropism for the cysticerci of these hybrid-derived descendants has not yet been confirmed; the local people's life style which includes eating uncooked pig viscera, but no beef, suggest that pigs are likely to be the inter-mediate host ([Zein et al., 2019](#)).

Only *T. ASIATICA* taeniasis, caused by hybrid-derived descendants of *T. ASIATICA* and *T. SAGINATA* ([Yamane et al., 2013](#)), has been reported in residents of Samosir Island located in Lake Toba, Samosir district, North Sumatra, Indonesia ([Cross et al., 1976](#); [Fan et al., 1988](#); [Kosin et al., 1972, 1988](#)). [Kosin et al. \(1972\)](#) reported 9.5% of 285 stool specimens examined in Samosir Island were egg and/or proglottids positive, and proglottids appeared to be similar to *T. SAGINATA*. [Depary and Kosman](#)



Fig. 2. Lawar (s) at a Lawar stall in Gianyar district taken in January 2011 by AI, and Lawar (b) and Komoh (c) at another Lawar stall in Gianyar taken in October 2018 by Indah Budi Apsari.

(1991) noted the contradiction that *T. SAGINATA* (or, as we now know, *T. SAGINATA*-like tapeworms) exists in communities on Samosir Island where people ate pork, dog, sheep or goat, but very rarely ate beef. From 1972 onwards until 2016, *T. SAGINATA* (= *T. ASIATICA*) surveys were exclusively conducted on Samosir Island (Cross *et al.*, 1976; Fan *et al.*, 1988, 1989, 1990a, 1992; Kosin *et al.*, 1988; Kosman *et al.*, 1988; Suroso, 2000; Suroso *et al.*, 2006; Wandra *et al.*, 2006b, 2007a, 2007b). Similarly, in Bali a paradoxical situation exists where Balinese people consume “pork *LAWAR*” more frequently than “beef *LAWAR*”, taeniasis caused by *T. SAGINATA* is found more frequently than taeniasis caused by

*T. solium*.

Dharmawan *et al.* (1993) examined 638 pigs slaughtered in Den-pasar abattoir in 1993 and found yellowish and whitish spots on the livers of 146 pigs (22.8%), numbering 1–6 spots in each of the infected livers, but almost all the cysts were in degenerative or calcified condition. They found only one mature cyst in one pig's liver. Microscopy showed the specific features of a scolex with hooklets. Based on this observation, they suspected that the cystic forms in the pigs' livers were likely cysticerci of *T. SAGINATA TAIWANENSIS* (later re-named *T. ASIATICA*), however there was no evidence to indicate these degenerative lesions were caused by a cestode parasite. Furthermore, the single viable cysticercus was identified as being *TAENIA HYDATIGENA*. Two years later, with a similar objective Dharmawan (1995) undertook an experimental study by administering gravid proglottids identified morphologically as *T. SAGINATA* (obtained from treated Balinese patients) to four groups of healthy male Bali pigs (total 33 pigs) and two cattle. Results of post mortem examinations done after the experimental infections found only a single viable cysticercus in the pigs, being in the liver, and numerous degenerative or calcified lesions, also in the liver. The two cattle however had numerous viable cysticerci but only in muscle tissue (Dharmawan, 1995). These findings are similar to those of Fan and colleagues (Fan *et al.*, 1990a, 1990b, 2006) who found that pigs experimentally infected with *T. SAGINATA* of Ethiopian origin developed numerous non-viable cysts in the liver as well as a small number of viable cysticerci (Fan *et al.*, 1990b), whereas experimental infection of pigs with *T. ASIATICA* led to the development of often large numbers of viable cysticerci in the liver (Fan *et al.*, 1990a). It seems likely that the investigations undertaken by Dharmawan and colleagues were probably involved *T. SAGINATA* rather than *T. ASIATICA*. Since no molecular examination was done in these studies, it was realized that no conclusive confirmation could yet be made regarding the *TAENIA* species involved.

As mentioned above, mitochondrial DNA analysis of all *T. SAGINATA*-like tapeworms in Bali revealed all of them as *T. SAGINATA* (Wandra *et al.*, 2007a, 2007b, 2015). The absence or low prevalence of *T. ASIATICA* in Bali may be associated with a drastic reduction in the popularity of “*Komoh*” in its original style with “raw liver in the soup of raw blood of pigs”. A report by Yamasaki *et al.* (2004) which referenced a specimen of *T. ASIATICA* derived from Bali was in error – the sample specimen actually came from Samosir Island (Yamasaki H, personal communication).

While *T. ASIATICA* is rare or non-existent in Bali, this species is present elsewhere in Indonesia including Samosir Island (Fan *et al.*, 1988, 1989, 1990a, 1992; Margono *et al.*, 2005; Wandra *et al.*, 2006b, 2013). Most recently, Zein *et al.* (2019) reported 171 *T. SAGINATA*-like tapeworm carriers in several sub-districts, Simalungun district, North Sumatra, which locates eastern side of Lake Toba in 2017. Four specimens were provided for molecular confirmation to their Japanese collaborators. They all were confirmed to be *T. ASIATICA* by mitochondrial *cox1* gene analysis. Nuclear gene analysis successful with only two of them revealed that they were hybrid-derived descendants of *T. ASIATICA* and *T. SAGINATA* completely same as those in Samosir Island. Samosir Island and Simalungun district are adjacent in North Sumatra (Zein *et al.*, 2019).

The newly confirmed endemic areas are in the large palm farms, and

the living environment appears to be very poor. The extent of the area in Sumatra that is endemic for *T. ASIATICA* other than Samosir Island

(Cross *et al.*, 1976; Fan *et al.*, 1988; Kosin *et al.*, 1972, 1988; Margono *et al.*, 2005; Suroso *et al.*, 2006; Wandra *et al.*, 2006b, 2007a, 2007b, 2013) is unclear; there have been no studies other than that of Zein *et al.* (2019) in the past 5 decades. Additional surveys in poorer villages in North Sumatra may reveal more cases. Clearly, there is potential for the further spread of *T. ASIATICA* through the travel or migration of *TAENIA* carriers to areas of Indonesia where the presence of pigs and poor sanitary conditions would favor introduction of the parasite.

#### 4.2.3. The number of TAPEWORMS in BALINESE TAENIASIS PATIENTS

Cases of multiple tapeworms infecting people have been reported to be not rare in many other Asian countries (e.g. Anantaphruti, 2005; Arambulo *et al.*, 1976; Cabrera, 1965; Chung and Bruce, 1976; Fan *et al.*, 1990c; Ito *et al.*, 2013; Lee *et al.*, 1966; Pawlowski and Schultz, 1972; Tesfa-Yohannes, 1990). In contrast, our data from studies in Bali have revealed a different pattern. No multiple tapeworm infections have been encountered by Bakta and Soewarno (1983), Sutisna (1990) and Sutisna *et al.* (1999). Also, results of treatment of taeniasis carriers performed in field surveys carried out over more than a decade between 2002–2017 in Gianyar, Karangasem and other districts of Bali showed that of a total of 170 taeniasis carriers who expelled tapeworms after treatment, 150 expelled only a single tapeworm of *T. SAGINATA*, whereas 20 including 2 cases with two tapeworms each, all of which were *T. solium*. So, a total of 18 *T. solium* cases were solitary cases (Swastika *et al.*, 2017; Swastika *et al.*, unpublished; Wandra *et al.*, 2015). We conclude that infections with multiple *TAENIA* tapeworms, either *T. SAGINATA* or *T. solium* are very rare in Bali. It appears to be crucially different from China where  $\geq 20$  *T. solium* worms have been often confirmed in each patient (Ito *et al.*, 2013; Li *et al.*, in prep.) and many other Asian countries mentioned above.

One most possible explanation for the infrequency of cases of multiple tapeworm infections in Bali may be that while the Hindu community undertakes home slaughtering of pigs, they are

infected with the eggs released from themselves.

In later years with the introduction of modern serological techniques, researchers began to employ ELISA and immunoblot techniques in their studies to detect cysticercosis in people and animals in Bali (Ito *et al.*, 2004). The first published report of serologic survey on cysticercosis in Bali was made by Coker-Vann *et al.* (1981) who found a 20.7% seroprevalence of anti-*T. solium* cysticercus antibodies in Tenganan village, Manggis subdistrict, Karangasem district. Theis *et al.* (1994) examined by immunoblot (EITB) and ELISA techniques 746 serum samples of asymptomatic people and 74 serum samples of people with epilepsy collected from all over Bali and found seropositivity for antibodies to *T. solium* cysticercus of 12.6% and 13.5%, respectively. Sutisna *et al.* (1999) using EITB technique (carried out at Salford University, UK) examined 115 serum samples collected in a study in Banjar Pamesan, Ketewel village, Gianyar district, and found a 5.2% (6/115) seropositivity for anti-*T. solium* cysticercus antibodies. Wandra *et al.* (2015) examined 1,489 serum samples collected in community surveys carried out during 2002–2014 by ELISA (undertaken at Asahikawa Medical University, Japan) and found seroprevalence of anti-*T. solium* cysticercus antibodies of 2.7% (13/443) in Gianyar district, 2.8% (1/36) in urban Karangasem, and 5.3% (27/507) in rural Karangasem district, but no positive serology response was detected in people in Denpasar city and six other districts (Buleleng, Jembrana, Tabanan, Badung, Bangli, Klungkung) (see Table 2). Although it is impossible to compare these serological data on the same standard, the tendency in seropositivity revealed Karangasem as high-risk area (Coker-Vann *et al.*, 1981).

#### 4.3.2. Cysticercosis in HUMANS: reports from HOSPITALS

Clinical cases of neurocysticercosis hospitalized in Bali from 1974

alert on the presence of tapeworm larvae/cysts in the pig's muscles consider it as improper for ritual offering or consumption, thus it is like an effective meat inspection. We have observed that many Balinese people, especially those in rural villages, believe that cysticercus-infected muscles of pigs or cattle is due to certain evil force that causes the measly meat to occur, rather than knowledge based on an understanding of the origin of cysticercus in pigs or cattle. Balinese people are familiar with the local word “beberasan” (literally means “resembling rice”), specifically used to refer to cysticercus-infected pig or cattle meat. Therefore, in case *TAENIA* infection does occur in people, it is possible that infection with taeniasis occurs most commonly from lightly infected meat, leading to the development of only a single tapeworm.

#### 4.3. Studies on cysticercosis in HUMANS AND pigs in BALI

##### 4.3.1. Cysticercosis in HUMANS: reports of cysticercosis CASES in community

There are two published reports available concerning human cysticercosis in the community of Bali. Susanti (unpublished data in 1980), Department of Pathology, Udayana University reported 6 cases of subcutaneous cysticercosis, and Sutisna (1994) reported 6 cases, including 4 cases of subcutaneous cysticercosis, one case with concurrent subcutaneous cysticercosis and *T. solium* taeniasis, and one case with concurrent subcutaneous cysticercosis, neurocysticercosis as well as *T. solium* taeniasis. The four patients with only subcutaneous cysticercosis had, in each case, a single nodule, while the other two patients with subcutaneous cysticercosis and *T. solium* taeniasis both had about 40 nodules all over the body. These two patients did not realize that they harbored tapeworms in their intestines until after *TAENIA* eggs were recovered in their feces by microscopic examination and a single adult tapeworm expelled from each patient after anti-helminthic drug treatment, which eventually was confirmed to be *T. solium* by morphologic examination. The two cases having many subcutaneous nodules and *T. solium* taeniasis suggest that the two patients are likely to have been

until 2010 are summarized in Table 3. Wandra *et al.* (2016) reported a Balinese man who had to be hospitalized at Sanglah Hospital due to seizures occurring a few hours after they treated the patient with praziquantel in a rural village of Gianyar district; eventually the patient was confirmed to have both neurocysticercosis as well as *T. SAGINATA* taeniasis (by proglottid's morphology and mtDNA analysis). An ocular cysticercosis of a 9-year-old Balinese girl living in a rural village in Kubu sub-district of Karangasem was confirmed (Swastika *et al.*, 2012). The patient was operated at Indera Hospital in Denpasar, and eventually one intact but immature cyst could be extracted from inside the left eye.

The majority of NCC cases confirmed in Jakarta and other areas in Indonesia are Balinese (Adnjana and Djojopranoto, 1961; Giri, 1978; Hadidjaja *et al.*, 1971; Margono *et al.*, 2002; Soebroto *et al.*, 1960) and a female from West Kalimantan (Bonne, 1940; Hadidjaja, 1971).

##### 4.3.3. Cysticercosis in pigs

Reports on cysticercosis in pigs in Indonesia is limited. Le Coultre (1928) reported a prevalence of cysticercosis of 2.0–3.0% in pigs in Bali. At that time, he pointed out that the main source of cysticercosis infection in Bali was in people's house yards where pigs were let roam free on the yards and where people also used to defecate. Simanjuntak *et al.* (1977) reported 2.2% of 548 persons in three villages in Bali were found to have taeniasis caused by either *T. SAGINATA* or *T. solium* AND pigs were found infected with *T. solium* cysticercus. Cows were not examined. Depary and Kosman (1991) made similar observations about the habits of Balinese people to defecate in the stables of domestic animals located behind their houses. A report from Indonesia Directorate Animal Health, Directorate General of Livestock Service mentioned that throughout the period of 1975–1986, out of a total of 1,047,781 pigs slaughtered in several abattoirs in Bali, 1,208



(0.08%) were infected by

*T. solium* cysticerci on an annual basis (Margono *et al.*, 2005). In 1987 and 1988 no cysticercosis cases were reported from records of 297,319 pigs slaughtered (Dharmawan *et al.*, 2012; Margono *et al.*, 2005; Widarso *et al.*, 2001). The numbers of pigs infected with *T. solium*, cattle and carabaos infected with *T. SAGINATA* in 1979 were 305/31,187

(0.98%), 476/3,158 (15.07%) and 12/801 (1.49%), respectively (Widarso *et al.*, 2001).

Dharmawan *et al.* (1992) reported seven (0.19%) of 5,630 pigs slaughtered in Denpasar abattoir were found to be heavily infected with cysticerci of *T. solium*. These pigs were exclusively from Karangasem. During the period of 2011–2014, Wandra *et al.* (2015) examined 329 serum samples from pigs in rural villages in Karangasem by ELISA and found a relatively high cysticercosis seroprevalence of 13.1% (43/329) (see Table 2). By contrast, Swastika *et al.* (2016) examined 60 pigs slaughtered in a government-owned abattoir located outside Amlapura, the capital city of Karangasem (urban) (Fig. 1-16), and found all were seronegative for *T. solium* cysticercosis, and on autopsy the pigs were found not to be infected with *T. solium*.

The seroprevalence of cysticercosis in pigs in the rural villages in Karangasem found in 2011–2014 coincides with the description of a case of ocular cysticercosis found in 2010 in one of the villages (Table 3; Swastika *et al.*, 2012) and two cases of *T. solium* taeniasis found in the same village as well as another case of *T. solium* taeniasis in a nearby village, in a field survey undertaken in 2011 (Wandra *et al.*, 2015). These findings, as well as other information obtained by the authors from local people during the village surveys, suggest that pigs infected with *T. solium* were distributed and slaughtered by local people within the endemic neighboring villages to make food, including “pork *LAWAR*”. In addition, with the fact that personal and environmental sanitation is poor in the area and that pigs are let roam free at least in the day time to find food, it is assumed that transmission of *T. solium* taeniasis/cysticercosis occurs among people in the focal area located on the northeastern slope of Mt. Agung where the dry season continues a half year (Wandra *et al.*, 2015).

#### 4.3.4. Cysticercosis in dogs

People living in the taeniasis/cysticercosis endemic areas in Kubu sub-district informed us that they sometimes consume dog meat (Wandra *et al.*, 2015). Dog meat as “*SATE*” is also eaten elsewhere in Bali, although not commonly. Dogs have been found to be infected with viable *T. solium* cysticerci in Papua (Ito *et al.*, 2002, 2004; Wandra *et al.*, 2015) and hence they have the potential to act as an alternative intermediate host for *T. solium* in Bali. To date there are no reports of cysticercosis in dogs in Bali, however it is unlikely that this would have been reported other than as an incidental finding. A survey of cysticercosis in dogs would be valuable in providing additional information about the transmission ecology of taeniasis/cysticercosis in Bali.

#### 4.3.5. Cysticercosis in CATTLE CAUSED by *T. saginata*

As mentioned previously, Le Coultre (1928) undertook extensive studies of bovine cysticercosis during abattoir inspections in Bali and found 20–30% of cattle to be infected. Ressang and Umboh (1962) also reported the presence of bovine cysticercosis in Bali. Widarso *et al.* (2001) summarized the prevalence of cysticercosis in livestock including pigs, cattle and carabaos (a type of water buffalo) from 1975 until 1988. Recent preliminary studies of local cattle screened serologically at abattoirs in Denpasar revealed that serological screening was consistent with the meat inspection data and cattle harboring *T. SAGINATA* cysticerci were not rare but rather common as expected from many *T. SAGINATA* cases mentioned above (Dharmawan, personal communication). Two experimental infection studies in cattle have been carried out in Bali (Dharmawan *et al.*, 2009, 2012) which resulted in the development of many cysticerci, particularly in the heart muscles.

### 5. Current situation concerning transmission of *Taenia* species in Bali

Recent surveys of taeniasis in Bali have identified many cases of *T.*

*SAGINATA* infections which are widespread. These studies have failed to identify any evidence of *T. ASIATICA* transmission in Bali.

the northeastern slope of Mt. Agung in Karangasem are endemic for *T. solium* transmission (Fig. 1) (Swastika *et al.*, 2017). There is a half-year dry season in Bali (Wandra *et al.*, 2015) and in all areas other than the northeastern slopes of Mt. Agung, rice is harvested three times/year. In most of the island, even during the dry season, lands are covered with green grasses. In contrast, the area of the northeastern slope of Mt. Agung has little grass nor water for everyday life during the dry season as it is in the rain shadow of the volcano (Wandra *et al.*, 2015). This environmental situation is expected to be the same at least from the past three eruptions in 1843, 1963–1964 and 2017–2018. Therefore, *T. solium* transmission has at least been active in this area over one century or from 1843. Furthermore, sanitation and hygienic conditions in the endemic rural area in Kubu sub-district, Karangasem are the worst in Bali, and expected to be the worst from 1843 onwards. Poverty and the lack of affordable animal foods in the area result in the pigs often being free roaming, especially during day time. A tour of several mountainous Banjars in Gerokgak in Buleleng in the north of the island during June 2017 found that pigs reared in these areas were kept in pens either indoor or outdoor (Fig. 1-17, -18). Villagers and local health staff in these areas remembered cysticercosis in pigs approximately 2 decades ago but have no recollection of more recent occurrences. In these areas, even during the dry season, water is running through irrigation channels and the living environment appears much better than in the *T. solium* endemic area in Kubu sub-district in Karangasem. Even relatively close to the Kubu sub-district, in the Bugbug (Fig. 1-14) and Seraya Banjars (Fig. 1-15) to the south, the living environment and economy was much better. A drinking water supply system has been established and almost all pig owners keep pigs in concrete pens. Some owners keep pigs in bamboo pens (picture not shown) where pigs are often found infected with *T. HYDATIGENA* but not with *T. solium*. There was little or no evidence that pigs have access to human feces in these areas (Swastika *et al.*, unpublished).

The situation in the Kubu sub-district in Karangasem is, however, improving. Over recent times, the government has made a substantial investment in infrastructure for providing safe drinking water supply which was under construction in the Banjars on the northeastern slope of Mt. Agung in 2016. However, disruption of normal life in the area occurred during 2017 when the Mt. Agung volcano became active. In September 2017, all villagers living around the Mt. Agung were evacuated to safe areas. By September 2017 a total of > 80,000 people had been evacuated, increasing to > 140,000 by the early October. We were informed that pig owners in Kubu subdistrict killed all pigs before they were evacuated. These evacuated villagers got permission to come back their home villages from 12 July 2018, since the Mt. Agung appeared to be no more active. It is unclear what effect this disruption to the *T. solium* endemic area may have on the parasites' transmission in the region or the areas into which the local inhabitants and their animals were re-located.

## 6. Perspectives towards prevention and control of taeniasis and cysticercosis in Bali

Studies that so far have been carried out in Bali have shown that *T. SAGINATA* taeniasis is endemic in semi-urban and/or urban areas in Bali, while *T. solium* taeniasis is only found sporadically in focal rural or remote areas on the northeastern slope of Mt. Agung. Human cysticercosis cases in Bali are also found sporadically, and in the last decade their occurrence in the community tended to be even rarer compared to the situation in earlier decades. This situation is due to the improvement of people's personal and environment hygiene and sanitation, which is likely due to increased use of latrines in households, improvement in the way people keep their pigs in pens,

In relation to *T. solium*, we could confirm that 10 Banjars located on

health education that has been given by health workers to people, and better socio-economic status of people in general (Ito *et al.*, 2011; Wandra *et al.*, 2015).

While access for pigs to human feces seems to have decreased over

the last few decades in Bali, a similar level of decline in contamination of cattle pastures does not appear to have occurred. This is evident from the continued presence of relatively large numbers of cases of *T. SAGINATA* taeniasis which does not appear to have a restricted distribution in the island.

Socio-cultural aspect of the Balinese Hindu community's cultural practices concerning foods continues to be a major factor in the transmission of *T. SAGINATA* and *T. solium*. Consumption of undercooked pork (pork "LAWAR") is linked to frequent religious and ritual festivals. The issue was discussed extensively in 1965 at the Symposium on "Health Problems in the Hindu Traditions and Religion in Bali" held at Udayana University. Many physicians and other health workers, experts of traditions and prominent leaders of Hindu religion, University academicians etc. participated in the symposium. They concluded that the high prevalence of taeniasis in Bali was due to the habit of Balinese people to consume pork or beef "LAWAR" made of raw meat and they recommended that people should consume well-cooked "LAWAR" instead of raw "LAWAR". This information is mentioned by Ngoerah (1975). It seems, however, that there has been little change in these practices; in June 2017 we observed celebratory preparations for a young woman's impending birth of a child which included preparation of large quantities of pork "LAWAR" in Kubu subdistrict.

In the veterinary sector, it is crucial to ensure improvement of meat inspection in abattoirs, control of clandestine abattoirs, as well as improvements in the way people keep their animals (cattle and pigs). In the health sector, improvement of people's personal and environment hygiene and sanitation, especially in the use of hygienic latrines in households, should be given priority in the prevention and control program, so, health education for people, especially in known endemic areas should be carried out regularly in a manner people can easily understand. In addition, rapid and sensitive laboratory methods for screening taeniasis/cysticercosis as well as sufficient provision of safe and effective anthelmintic for treating cases are

parasite, such as a porcine cysticercosis control program (Lightowlers and Donadeu, 2017).

## 7. Conclusion

Bali remains endemic for *T. SAGINATA* and *T. solium*. There is no evidence for the presence of *T. ASIATICA* on Bali. Economic advancement in Bali and the associated improvements in sanitary conditions and public education have been associated with a reduction in *T. solium* transmission. Transmission now appears to be restricted to Kubu sub-district, Karangasem district on the eastern end of the island (Fig. 1). Recent improvements in water supplies and the building of well-designed toilets in this district as well is likely to result in a further contraction in the parasite's transmission. We believe that with continued investment by the government and sustained monitoring, diagnostic efforts, treatment of cases of taeniasis and scientific research in the area has a good prospect of seeing the elimination of *T. solium* and neuro-cysticercosis from Bali. Research is warranted on the effects that the recent relocation of the population from the *T. solium* endemic area due to activity of the Mt. Agung volcano.

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equally important. Above all, in order such prevention and control program to be successful, it is essential that the Government, both on the national and provincial levels, should be committed to support the program (Gemmell *et al.*, 1983; Ito *et al.*, 2011; Lightowlers and Donadeu, 2017; Sutisna, 2002; Wandra *et al.*, 2011, 2015).

With the current limited areas where *T. solium* is transmitted in Bali, there are good prospects for the parasite to be eliminated from the island. Continued improvement in living conditions and sanitation, as has occurred during the recent past in all other areas in Bali, is likely to result in improved sanitation and improvements in pig rearing practices. There is an excellent chance for the local Government to implement a sustained education campaign, including about eating pork only after cooking well. Education of local people on the risk of neurocysticercosis, the link with outdoor defecation with free roaming pigs, and the need to cook pork for preparation of "pork LAWAR" might eliminate neurocysticercosis from Bali. It should be reminded that such actions for health education through local radio broadcast stressed that "LAWAR" should be well cooked in over 4 decades ago (Simanjuntak *et al.*, 1977). Sustainable education is the essential key action for elimination of food-borne infectious diseases including taeniasis which can cause secondary cysticercosis in humans and pigs, but it has taken over 4 decades for people to change their dietary habits. Although the present situation in

Bali might be the final stage in front of the goal of elimination of *T. solium* cysticercosis through education, improvement of living environment with better economy, health education for eating cooked meat and surveillance of *T. solium* cysticercosis should be strengthened for declaration of *T. solium* free island, Bali. Through such sustainable education and introduction of meat inspection in abattoirs may decrease taeniasis of *T. SAGINATA* much easier than *T. solium*. Should economic advancement, improvements in sanitation and pig rearing practices not lead to the absence of *T. solium* transmission, the limited areas of endemicity would make Bali an excellent site for implementation of an elimination program directed specifically to the

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