etymologia

Cochliomyia hominivorax [kok"le-o-mi'yə]

From the Greek *kochlias* (“snail with a spiral shell”) + *myia* (“fly”) and the Latin *hominis* (“man”) + vorax (“consuming”), *Cochliomyia hominivorax*, or the New World screwworm fly (formerly Callitroga [Greek *kallos*, “beautiful,” + *trogein*, “to gnaw”] *americana*), was first described by French entomologist Charles Coquerel in 1858. *C. hominivorax* larvae enter wounds and feed on living tissue, and if untreated, infestations can be fatal. *C. hominivorax* was eliminated in the United States in 1982 and in much of Central America in the 1990s, although outbreaks associated with reimportations in infected humans and animals continue to occur.

Figure. Dorsal view of the “Primary screwworm” fly, *Cochliomyia hominivorax*, a member of the family Calliphoridae. Image: Public Health Image Library.

Source

1. Dear JP. A revision of the New World chrysomyini (Diptera: Calliphoridae). Revista Brasileira de Zoologica. 1985;3:109–69. http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/S0101-81751985000300001

Address for correspondence: Ronnie Henry, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Rd NE, Mailstop E28, Atlanta, GA 30329-4027, USA; email: boq3@cdc.gov

DOI: https://doi.org/10.3201/eid2502.ET2502

LETTER

Mycobacterium lepromatosis Lepromatous Leprosy in US Citizen Who Traveled to Disease-Endemic Areas

Gaurav Sharma, Vishnu Dutt Sharma

Author affiliations: University of Miami, Miami, Florida, USA (G. Sharma); National Jalma Institute for Leprosy and Other Mycobacterial Diseases, Agra, India (V.D. Sharma)

DOI: https://doi.org/10.3201/eid2502.171895

To the Editor: Virk et al. (*1*) reported a *Mycobacterium lepromatosis* infection in a US citizen with a history of multiple international travels and concluded that *M. lepromatosis* lepromatous leprosy is a travel-related hazard for travelers to endemic areas. The conclusions drawn, however, need extensive support of thoroughly conducted case studies before generalizing *M. lepromatosis* as a travel-related hazard.

In the case report, the exact source of *M. lepromatosis* infection was unclear. Moreover, experimental evidence used in this work are not enough to prove that *M. lepromatosis* is a travel-related hazard. Confirming a source of infection by DNA fingerprinting of *M. lepromatosis* can be ideal to rule out infection from unreported native patients or environmental reservoirs (*2*).

It is possible that the patient in this report may have contracted *M. lepromatosis* infection as a result of his host-susceptible genetic factors. Host genetic susceptibility to leprosy is complicated because of the genetics of *M. lepromatosis*, interaction between genetic and environmental factors, gene–gene interactions, and ethnicity (*3*). Host genetics plays a major role in determining a person’s risk of developing clinical leprosy. Thus, even a short trip to a leprosy-endemic country is sufficient for a host susceptible to *M. lepromatosis* to acquire an infection. The host