LUTZOMYIA GASPARVIANNAI MARTINS, GODOY & SILVA, 1962, PROBABLE VECTOR OF LEISHMANIA MEXICANA SSP. IN VIANA MUNICIPALITY, ESPÍRITO SANTO STATE, BRAZIL

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In a recent investigation on reservoir hosts of Leishmania among wild animals in the Viana municipality, two samples of parasites of the Leishmania mexicana complex were isolated from spiny-rats, Proechimys iheringi (Rodentia, Echimydae) (Falqueto, 1984). The stocks were characterized by radio immune binding assay using species and subspecies specific monoclonal antibodies to members of L. mexicana complex. They showed patterns distinct from L. mexicana mexicana and L. mexicana amazonensis. One of the stocks was indistinguishable from the reference strain of Leishmania mexicana aristedesi Lainson & Shaw, 1979, isolated from wild animals in Panama (Herrer, Telford & Christensen, 1971).

We have been investigating on the feeding habits of the phlebotomine sandflies in relation to man and Proechimys, in the forest area where the infected rodents were caught. Oil traps (Disney, 1966) baited with P. iheringi were set late in the afternoon and the sandflies collected at dawn. Of 320 sandflies, 314 (98.1%) were identified as Lutzomyia gasparviannai, indicating this species as the probable vector of the parasite among the rodents. No specimens of Lu. gasparviannai were found among 355 phlebotomines caught feeding on man. These data suggest that the parasite here named Leishmania mexicana ssp. is not usually transmitted to humans.

RESUMO

Dos flebótomos atraídos pelo Proechimys iheringi numa área onde esse roedor foi achado naturalmente infectado por Leishmania mexicana ssp., 98,1% foram Lutzomyia gasparviannai, o que sugere que essa espécie não antropofílica seja o transmissor entre os roedores mas não habitualmente ao homem.

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REFERENCES


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