

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

**ALOÍSIO FALQUETO\*, GABRIEL GRIMALDI JR.\*\* , PAULO AUGUSTO SESSA\*\*\*,  
JOSÉ BENEDITO MALTA VAREJÃO\*\*\* & LEONIDAS M. DEANE\*\*\*\***

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– *Leishmania mexicana*

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, Echimyidae) (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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Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo, \*Departamento de Medicina Social do Centro Médico and \*\*\*Departamento de Patologia do Centro Biomédico, Vitória, ES.

Instituto Oswaldo Cruz, \*\*Departamento de Imunologia and \*\*\*\*Departamento de Entomologia, Caixa Postal 926, 20000 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil.

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