

COMUNICAÇÃO

LUTZOMYIA INTERMEDIA AS A SUSPECTED VECTOR OF LEISHMANIA VIANNIA BRAZILIENSIS IN BAHIA STATE, BRAZIL

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We have reported the predominance of *Lutzomyia whitmani* in the peridomicile in our field project area of Tres Braços, Bahia³ where 99% of phlebotomines captured were of this species. This is the suspected vector of *Leishmania viannia braziliensis* (Lvb) and to date three wild caught flies have been found to harbour this parasite of over 18,000 dissected². We wish to record here the presence of another suspected vector of Lvb in peridomicile captures using human bait at a farm 40 miles south of Tres Braços. These captures are recorded in the Table 1 from Fazenda Vovo where ten cases of cutaneous leishmaniasis occurred in 1986. Each capture unit represents one man hour.

As can be seen monthly observations were not possible over a single year but usually the number of *L. intermedia* exceed *L. whitmani*. This is in contrast to our previous findings in Tres Braços and suggests that *L. intermedia* must also be considered as a potential vector in this region since Lvb was the parasite isolated from the human infections. *L. intermedia* constituted

85% of captures in a recent report from São Paulo state where it is suspected to be the vector of cutaneous leishmaniasis¹.

REFERENCES

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Table 1 - Captures at Fazenda Vovo.

	Jan/87	Fev/86	Mar/86	Abr/86	Mai/86	Jun/87	Jul/85	Aug/85	Sep/85	Oct/86	Nov/86	Dec/86
Capture units	4	10	35	15	4	1	17	25	34	4	10	3
Nº <i>Lutzomyia whitmani</i>	15	13	264	60	142	12	760	378	123	58	163	4
Nº <i>Lutzomyia intermedia</i>	15	88	495	305	65	5	1432	823	411	103	163	36