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RESEARCH NOTE

THE FINDING OF ONE MALE SPECIMEN OF *LUTZOMYIA RENEI* (MARTINS, FALCÃO & SILVA, 1957) EXPERIMENTALLY INFECTED BY *LEISHMANIA*

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Studing the behaviour of *Leishmania* samples in the alimentary tract of phlebotomine sandflies, an experimental infection by this parasite was observed in a male of *Lutzomyia renei*.

As yet, a similar fact was described only once by Coelho, Falcão & Falcão (1967, *Rev. Inst. Med. trop. São Paulo, 9* (4) :177-191). These authors observed a male of *Lutzomyia longipalpis* infected by *Leishmania*.

Several sandflies were used for the experimental infections. They were captured in Lapinha cave Minas Gerais State, where *Leishmania* is not generally found.

The insects were feed on a hamster nodule infected by *Leishmania* sample (MAKO/BR/78/32R) from a tegumentary leishmaniasis focus in Caratinga, Minas Gerais State.

After this infecting blood meal, the sandflies were kept in a climate room. The dissections of these insects began on the 3rd day of infection. On the 7th day, one male full of partially digest blood was observed, showing that this male sucked the infected hamster, probably by bite.

During the examination of the alimentary tract of this male it was noted mobile flagellates of *Leishmania*. The morphology of the parasites was like nectomona as described by Killick-Kendrick (1979, In Lumsden, W.H.R. & Evans, D.A. *Biology of the Kinetoplastida*, vol. 2, cap. 8, p. 396-460).

The infection was very rich and the digestive tube was inhabited by the parasites from the stomach until the rectum. This kind of flagellate distribution was very different from that showed by the female examinations. The behaviour of the promastigotes in the females was characteristic of the species belonging to the *Leishmania mexicana* complex, because the infection doesn't occur in the posterior gut.

This fact demonstrated the possibility that the male phlebotomine sandflies to have blood meal and to infect with *Leishmania*.

There are pictures of the material and the slide is deposited in the phlebotomine sandflies collection of the Centro de Pesquisas René Rachou.

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