



ABSTRACTS OF RECENT CHINESE PUBLICATIONS ON LEISHMANIASES¹ (VIII)

17. Wang, J., Shen, B.G. & Chen, C.Y. Observations on the ultrastructure of the promastigote stage of Leishmania gerbilli. Endemic Diseases Bulletin, 1989, 4 (2): 57-60 (In Chinese, with English abstract)

Leishmania gerbilli Wang et al., 1964, is a dermophilic protozoa which parasitizes Rhombomys opimus and lodges in the ear-tissue of the animals. It is sporadically found in certain desert areas of Gansu Province, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, as well as the Mongolian People's Republic adjacent to China. This paper reports observations on the ultrastructure of the promastigote stage of the parasite. Specimens of the promastigote stage were prepared from the culture of L. gerbilli in Novy-Nicolle-MacNeal (NNN) medium. Examination of thin sections with the electron microscope showed that the ultrastructural features of the promastigote of L. gerbilli were similar to those of other Leishmania species. The cell membrane consisted of outer and inner membranes with a row of submembrane microtubules. Observations on eight specimens showed that the number of submembrane microtubules differed, ranging from 79 to 138, with a mean number of 113.1, and their number also seemed to change in the different parts of the promastigote. In each leishmanial parasite, there is only one mitochondrion, but its size and shape vary: it is larger in L. gerbilli.

18. Hu, X.S., Lin, F.Q., Liu, Q., Kan, B., Liu, P.N. & Wang, Z.L. Further study on the application of McAb-AST to the detection of antigens in serum for diagnosis of kala-azar. Chinese Journal of Parasitic Disease Control, 1989, 2 (2): 69-72, 136 (In Chinese, with English abstract)

In the present study, all the sera of 50 kala-azar patients tested by the monoclonal antibody-antigen spot test (McAb-AST) showed positive reactions (i.e. a 100% positive rate). Including 51 previously reported cases, the total number of cases has accumulated to 101, with an average positive rate of 97.03%, while 508 out of 509 control sera (normal individuals and patients with other parasitic diseases) were negative in the test, with a false positive rate of only 0.2%.

The age-distribution of 63 cases from the Gansu and Sichuan endemic areas showed that the majority (65.1%) of these patients were under 10 years of age. The positive rates in the other age groups were as follows: 12.7% in 11-20 years, 17.5% in 21-30 years, 4.8% in 31-40 years and nil in the above 40 years age group. This is in agreement with other reports.

¹ The WHO/LEISH series has been chosen as a vehicle for issuing abstracts or translations in English of papers on leishmaniasis published in the Chinese medical and scientific press as most of this material is not readily available to interested readers outside China. The numbering of the abstracts in this document is consecutive to that of the abstracts given in the previous WHO/LEISH/89.28.

This document is not issued to the general public, and all rights are reserved by the World Health Organization (WHO). The document may not be reviewed, abstracted, quoted, reproduced or translated, in part or in whole, without the prior written permission of WHO. No part of this document may be stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means - electronic, mechanical or other - without the prior written permission of WHO.

Ce document n'est pas destiné à être distribué au grand public et tous les droits y afférents sont réservés par l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé (OMS). Il ne peut être commenté, résumé, cité, reproduit ou traduit, partiellement ou en totalité, sans une autorisation préalable écrite de l'OMS. Aucune partie ne doit être chargée dans un système de recherche documentaire ou diffusée sous quelque forme ou par quelque moyen que ce soit - électronique, mécanique, ou autre - sans une autorisation préalable écrite de l'OMS.

The views expressed in documents by named authors are solely the responsibility of those authors.

Les opinions exprimées dans les documents par des auteurs cités nommément n'engagent que lesdits auteurs.

The McAb-AST using the simplified and modified procedures described in this paper is convenient for field application. It is suggested that it is a simple method with high sensitivity (97.03%) and specificity (99.8%), and may be considered the method of choice in the diagnosis of kala-azar, especially in the endemic areas with a high morbidity among young children.

= = =