



ABSTRACTS OF RECENT CHINESE PUBLICATIONS ON LEISHMANIASIS<sup>1</sup> (III)

8. Chai, J. J. et al. Agglutination by lectins in various strains of Leishmania promastigotes. Journal of Parasitology and Parasitic Diseases, 1984, 2 (1): 43 (In Chinese, with English abstract)

Agglutination by Concanavalin A (Con A), phytohaemagglutinin (PHA), wheat germ agglutinin (WGA) and Ricinus communis agglutinin (RCA) was studied in five strains of Leishmania donovani, one of L. mexicana amazonensis, one of L. gerbilae and one of a Leishmania sp. isolated from lizards. With Con A and RCA specific agglutination occurred in all eight strains, while with PHA and WGA it occurred in none of the strains tested. These results seemed to indicate the presence of terminal ligands such as  $\alpha$ -D-mannose and/or  $\alpha$ -D-glucose and  $\alpha$ -D-galactose on the surface membranes of the Leishmania strains studied.

9. Wang, X. J. A case of kala-azar reported in Xuchang, Henan Province. Chinese Journal of Infectious Diseases, 1983, 1 (4): 250 (In Chinese)

A 30-year-old female farmer was hospitalized on 10 March 1983 due to chill, fever, occasional profuse perspiration, inappetence, palpitation, lassitude and loss of weight for one month. A fist-size mass had been palpated in the left upper quadrant of the abdomen two years before. No history of prolonged residence outside of Henan Province was recorded. Her nephew had had kala-azar 8 years ago and was cured. Physical examination on admission revealed: a temperature of 38.5°C; a pulse of 100; exsanguinated complexion; soya bean-sized lymph nodes palpable on the right side of the neck and both inguinal regions; a grade II systolic murmur heard at the pulmonary artery and mitral areas; a smooth, slightly firm, liver palpable 4 cm below the costal margin and 6 cm below the xyphoid; a firm, nontender and enlarged spleen of 7 x 13 x 14 cm. The blood picture showed moderate anaemia and hypersplenism and a moderately impaired liver function. The diagnosis of kala-azar was confirmed by bone marrow puncture and detection of numerous Leishmania donovani.

10. Yu, B. T. et al. A case report of cutaneous leishmaniasis. National Medical Journal of China, 1983, 63 (12): 762 (In Chinese)

A 38-year-old male farmer from An-ping County, Hebei Province, complained solely of eruptions on the cheeks, shoulders, abdomen, legs, ankles, feet and glans penis. The case had not responded to prednisone, cyclophosphamide and radiotherapy. The patient was admitted to hospital where a diagnosis of cutaneous leishmaniasis was made upon recovery of Leishmania donovani in a biopsied cutaneous nodule. The patient had been treated for kala-azar during childhood and he had a mangy dog at home. The 5 courses of pentavalent antimony sodium gluconate, given at intervals of 10 days and representing a total dosage of 18 g, caused no noticeable side effects. Skin lesions were healed one month later and no L. donovani were found in the previously biopsied site.

<sup>1</sup> 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/84.19.

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