WILD ANIMALS AS RESERVOIRS OF MYIASIS-PRODUCING FLIES IN MAN AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS IN AFRICA

F. ZUMPT

South African Institute for Medical Research

SUMMARY

The following myiasis-producing flies in man and domestic animals have wild animals as reservoirs:

Cordylobia anthropophaga (Blanchard)—Calliphoridae.

Cordylobia rodhaini Gedoelst—Calliphoridae.

Gasterophilus spp.—Gasterophilidae.

Gedoelstia haessleri Gedoelst—Oestridae.

Gedoelstia cristata Rodhain and Bequaert—Oestridae.

Little is known about wild reservoirs of *Chrysomya bezziana* Villeneuve (Calliphoridae), which nowadays infests mainly cattle, which are to be regarded as the only important reservoirs. Wild hosts, however, must have played a decisive rôle in the past.

Wild reservoirs of the Tumbu fly *Cordylobia anthropophaga* are mainly rodents; those of Lund's fly *Cordylobia rodhaini* are small antelopes and the giant rat. Both species are commonly found and are important pests of humans, dogs and several other domestic animals.

There are seven species of equine bot flies *Gasterophilus* spp. recorded from the Ethiopian region, two of them only from zebras. Most probably, however, all species are able to develop in horses and donkeys as well as in zebras, so that the latter form true reservoirs for these parasites. Occasional human skin infestations with first instar larvae (creeping myiasis) are known.

Two *Gedoelstia* spp. are common parasites in the head cavities of wildebeest and hartebeest, but under certain circumstances, the flies larviposit also on sheep, goats, cattle and horses and cause "oculo-vascular myiasis" (uitpeuloog) which is accompanied by a high mortality. One case in man is so far recorded and was benign.

Oestrus ovis Linnaeus, the sheep nasal bot fly, has no wild reservoirs in Africa, according to recent investigations.

REFERENCE

ZUMPT, F. 1965. *Myiasis in Man and Animals in the Old World.* Butterworth, London.