Human Thelaziasis in India

Dear Editor,

_Thelazic de Rhodes_ name given to _Thelazia_, by Bosc Taurus¹ commonly known as eye worm or Oriental worm was first described by Johannes Rhodes in 1676.² In India, published literature reveals five cases of human thelaziasis³–⁶ Human case reported by Sharma _et al._⁷ is the fifth report from India instead of the second as stated in the abstract column of the report. However, literature available on the prevalence of thelaziasis endorses the assumption of the authors that high occurrence of disease has been reported from tropical areas having hilly and foot hill terrains.

Northeastern region of India, which comprises of eight sister states has mountainous and foothill terrains. Heavy and long monsoon with favorable temperature range throughout the year provide ideal home for a variety of insects that play major role as vector of communicable diseases of medical and veterinary importance. The topography of the areas of Assam and its adjoining states are akin to Himachal Pradesh. Therefore, high prevalence of infections like thelaziasis may not be ruled out from both the areas. In fact, as speculated by the authors, a systematic survey of farm animals and pets from these areas for _Thelazia_ parasite and vector (face fly?) will shed some light on the problem of thelaziasis in India.

References


AM Khan
Regional Medical Research Centre, Dibrugarh - 786001, Assam, India
(email: <amkhan.icmr@rediffmail.com>)
Received : 20-04-06
Accepted : 09-06-06

This PDF is available for free download from Medknow Publications (www.medknow.com)