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TRYPANOSOMES OF SMALL MAMMALS IN IRAN

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Abstract: Trypanosomes in the subgenera *Herpetosoma*, *Schizotrypanum* and *Megatrypanum* were found in 31 small mammals representing nine species of the orders *Rodentia*, *Insectivora* and *Chiroptera* in Iran.

CASE REPORT

In a "Survey of Small Mammal-Borne Disease" carried out by the Iran-WHO International Epidemiological Research Center during 1969-1970 in Iran, 4620 animals belonging to 70 different species were caught in different parts of the country. Altogether, 14,789 smears were prepared from the blood (thick and thin smears), spleen, liver, kidney, lung and bone marrow, and from ear scrapings of some of the animals. Smears were stained by the standard Giemsa technique and examined microscopically using magnifications of 600X or 1000X.

In the orders *Rodentia*, *Insectivora* and *Chiroptera*, 31 animals belonging to 9 different species were infected with trypanosomes of the subgenera *Herpetosoma*, *Schizotrypanum* and *Megatrypanum*. The species identification of the trypanosomes are that given by Hoare:³

1. Subgenus *Herpetosoma*: *T. (H.) ulanovi* in 10 from 53 *Allactaga williamsi*; *T. (H.) bandicotti* in 2/45 *Nesokia indica* and one *Trypanosoma sp.* of this subgenus in 1/766 *Meriones persicus* with no apparently previous record. *T. (H.) crocidurae* in 3/24 *Crocidura russula* and *Crocidura SP.*

2. Subgenus *Schizotrypanum*: *T. (S.) vespertilionis* in 2/7 *Eptesicus ognevi* and 6/54 *Myotis blythi*. *T. (S.) vespertilionis* or *T. (S.) pipistrelli* in 2/92 *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*. The only way to distinguish the species *T. (S.) vespertilionis* from *T. (S.) pipistrelli* [as *T. (S.) dionisii*] is by the morphology in culture or DNA buoyant density^{1,2} which was not done in this study.

3. Subgenus *Megatrypanum*: *T. (M.) megadermae* in 1/20 *Rhinolopus hipposiderus* and 4 *Trypanosoma spp.* of this subgenus in 89 *Minopterus schriebersi* with no previous record.

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