

Figure. Pin-site myiasis in a 77-year-old man 12 years after tibial osteosynthesis, Colombia. A) Open wound in the man's left leg, showing multiple insect larvae. B, C) *Cochliomyia hominivorax* screwworm fly larvae extracted from the wound. Arrow 1 indicates the spinose bands; note the spines arranged in 4 rows that separate each segment. Arrow 2 indicates its mouthhooks. Scale bars indicate 2 mm (B) and 1 mm (C).

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Oropouche Virus–Associated Aseptic Meningoencephalitis, Southeastern Brazil

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Oropouche fever is a neglected arthropodborne disease and zoonosis responsible for several outbreaks of a febrile disease in Central and South America. We present a clinical case of aseptic meningoencephalitis in an immunocompetent patient that resulted from Oropouche virus acquired in northern Brazil but diagnosed in a nonendemic region.

In April 2016, a 28-year-old man (S.V.) in Ribeirão Preto, southeastern Brazil, with a history of Gilbert syndrome sought care for a sudden high fever, severe 1-sided headache, vomiting, intense photophobia, stiff neck, and confusion. Seventeen days earlier, he had returned from a trip to Mosqueiro Island in northern Brazil; he received yellow fever vaccine 5 days before traveling. His 1-week visit to the island included outdoor activities that involved entrances into the native Amazon rainforest. The patient returned to Ribeirão Preto and remained asymptomatic for 10 days before becoming acutely ill with fever, chills, myalgia, headache, and dizziness. Symptoms occurred intermittently for 3 days, which prompted him to seek medical care. After evaluation, a diagnosis of dengue fever was considered. Microhematocrit was 54%, and tourniquet test was negative. Nonstructural protein (NS) 1 antigen detection test was requested, and the patient was treated with medications for his symptoms and prescribed abundant oral hydration and bed rest. Dengue fever was ruled out because NS1 antigen detection and IgM serologic testing provided negative results 6 days after initial symptom onset. Therefore, he was referred to an infectious disease outpatient clinic at another healthcare facility for further investigation. Yellow fever vaccine reaction and malaria were initially the main hypotheses, but thick blood film examination results were negative.

Seven days after initial symptom onset, the patient's headache worsened and became left-sided and pulsatile; intense photophobia, vomiting, and fever (105.8°F) developed. No hemorrhagic manifestations were observed. He was admitted to the emergency department at the Teaching Hospital in Ribeirão Preto with nuchal rigidity; ceftriaxone was initiated.

At admission, he was confused, including attention deficits and hallucinations. Physical examination found tachypnea (27 breaths/min), heart rate 76 beats/min, and blood pressure 130/80 mm Hg; cardiopulmonary examination

results were unremarkable, and the liver was palpable at 3 cm under the costal margin (spleen was not palpable) with no pain at abdominal palpation. The patient exhibited mild spasticity of lower limbs with positive Babinski sign, without focalities at neurologic exam. Because of clinical examination findings, viral meningoencephalitis emerged as a possible diagnosis, and intravenous acyclovir was started.

Laboratory examination showed complete blood counts within reference ranges (hematocrit 44%; leukocytes 10,300 cells/mm³ [no left shift; lymphocytes 2,300 cells/mm³]; platelets 388,000/mm³), normal kidney function, and sodium and potassium concentrations within reference ranges. Liver enzymes were slightly elevated (aspartate aminotransferase 30 U/L [reference 15–46 U/L], alanine aminotransferase 71 U/L [reference 13–69 U/L], γ -glutamyl transferase 107 U/L [7–60 U/L]); total bilirubin was 0.73 mg/dL (reference 0.2–1.0 mg/dL). Serologic test results were nonreactive for hepatitis A, B, and C; HIV; syphilis; Epstein-Barr virus; *Toxoplasma gondii*; and *Trypanosoma cruzi*. Thorax radiograph imaging was unremarkable; cerebral computed tomography scan showed cortical edema on the left frontal lobe (Figure, panel A).

Results of a spinal tap showed a 23 cm H₂O opening pressure (reference 5–20 cm H₂O) with clear cerebrospinal fluid containing 45 cells/mm³ (reference <5 cells/mm³) (85% lymphocytes); protein concentration of 53 mg/dL (reference <45 mg/dL); and glucose concentration of 62 mg/dL (capillary 100 mg/dL [reference 2/3 of capillary glucose]). VDRL test results were negative, and bacterial and fungal antigens were not detected. PCR results were negative for enterovirus, herpes viruses 1 and 2, varicella zoster virus, cysticercosis, tuberculosis, and toxoplasmosis but positive for Oropouche virus (OROV) (fraction S) (1). Blood sample PCR results were also positive for OROV (Figure, panel B) (2), and indirect immunofluorescence antibody testing (Appendix,

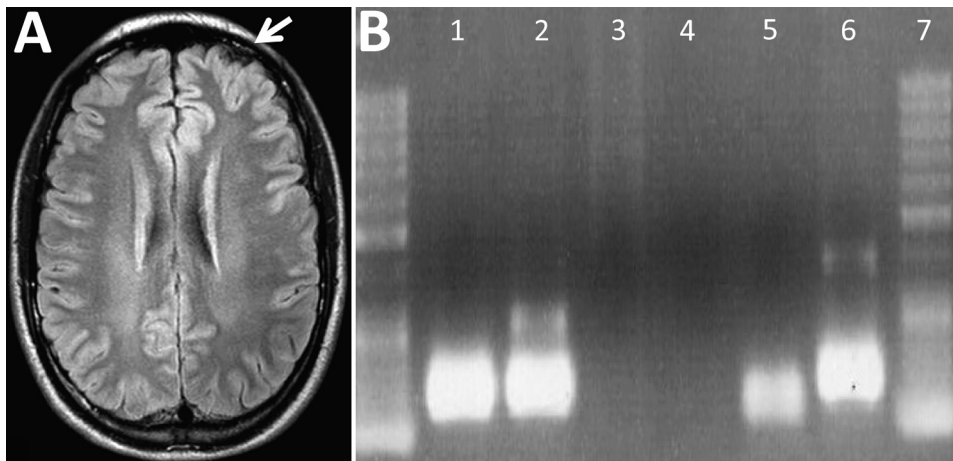


Figure. Imaging and PCR results for a 28-year-old man with Oropouche virus infection, southeastern Brazil. A) Cerebral computed tomography showing a cortical edema on the left frontal lobe (white arrow). B) Agarose gel of reverse transcription PCR products of Oropouche virus S fraction. Lane 1, patient's serum sample; lane 2, patient's cerebrospinal fluid; lane 3, patient's leukocyte supernatant; lane 4, negative control; lane 5, internal control; lane 6, positive control.

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/EID/article/25/2/18-1189-Appl.pdf> (3) confirmed OROV infection.

After 7 days of hospitalization, the patient recovered all neurologic function with no sequelae (posttreatment electromyography and magnetic resonance imaging findings were unremarkable). He was discharged and has had no additional relapses.

OROV, an RNA virus belonging to the genus *Orthobunyavirus*, family Peribunyaviridae, is the causative agent of Oropouche fever in humans (4). In a sylvatic cycle, OROV can be transmitted to some animals by mosquitoes and in an urban environment can be transmitted to humans by the midge *Culicoides paraensis* (5). Usually, humans become infected in forested areas and then can translocate the virus to an urban environment (6).

After a 4- to 8-day incubation period, fever, headache, myalgia, arthralgia, chills, photophobia, dizziness, nausea, and vomiting develop (2,6). Less frequently, patients experience rash, anorexia, retro-orbital pain, and general malaise (2,6,7). Hemorrhagic phenomena also have been described (8). Most patients recover spontaneously after 7 days, although some experience symptoms for as long as 1 month (2,6,7). Some cases can relapse after recovery; the clinical picture is similar to the initial onset or can be more severe, including aseptic meningitis (9,10). These patients may experience neck stiffness, dizziness, vomiting, lethargy, diplopia, and nystagmus, but prognosis without sequel is usually good (10).

There has been an increased concern that Oropouche fever, endemic in northern Brazil, might spread across the country by contiguous urban cycles and by human movement. Physicians working worldwide in areas to which OROV is not endemic should include this neglected disease in the differential diagnosis of acute febrile syndrome, especially in patients visiting high-risk areas for OROV transmission.

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