

PP-04: External ophthalmomyiasis by larvae of *Oestrus ovis* (sheep nasal botfly): second case report from Sri Lanka

J. A. M. T. N. Gunathilake¹, G. Rajapaksha², M. H. Gunatilake², S. A. S. C. Senanayake², K. R. Dayawansa¹, S. Gunawardena²

¹National Eye Hospital of Sri Lanka

²Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Introduction: External ophthalmomyiasis is the invasion of superficial tissues of the eye by fly larvae of the order Diptera. Human ophthalmomyiasis due to *Oestrus ovis* has been reported worldwide, typically in farmers and shepherds, especially in sheep and goat rearing countries of the Mediterranean basin. It is rare in Sri Lanka, and this is the second case that is being reported. In 2004, the first case was identified in a paddy farmer residing in Puttalam.

Case report: A 28-year-old man was admitted to the National Eye Hospital of Sri Lanka complaining of itching, redness, foreign body sensation and swelling of his right eye. On examination, visual acuity in both eyes was normal; conjunctival injection was noted in the right eye; and the presence of a few motile larvae were observed on the conjunctival surface. The patient recovered completely following the removal of six larvae and treatment with topical antibiotics. Microscopic examination revealed the larva to be translucent, segmented, white in colour and measuring approximately 1.07 mm x 0.36 mm in size. The tapering anterior end had two dark horn-shaped oral hooks connected to a cephalopharyngeal skeleton.

Conclusion: The morphological features of the extracted larvae were compatible with the first instar larva of *Oestrus ovis*. Sheep and goats are the natural hosts of these botflies. This patient gives no history of contact with either sheep or goats, nor does he give a history of trauma to his eye by any flies. Early detection and removal of botfly larvae will help minimise ocular damage.

Keywords: external ophthalmomyiasis, *Oestrus ovis*, sheep nasal botfly, Sri Lanka