

XX INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ENTOMOLOGY



PROCEEDINGS

Firenze, Italy
August 25-31, 1996

23-133

HUMAN SKIN MYIASIS BY *GASTEROPHILUS INTESTINALIS* (DE GEER)
(DIPTERA: GASTEROPHILIDAE) IN UMBRIA, CENTRAL ITALY

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The oral and gastric myiasis in horses by *Gasterophilus intestinalis* is, in Umbria, the most frequent parasitosis of those caused by the other four *Gasterophilus* species we have recorded in this region. The infestation occurs in the 96% of half-free-ranging horses, with a parasitic charging potential that, already in February, reaches N.450 larvae in the host's stomach. Reported herein for the first time in Umbria are three cases of human skin myiasis caused by *G. intestinalis* first instar larvae, recorded in 1994 and in 1995, from the end of October to mid-November, in people who had ridden horses still infested by *Gasterophilus* eggs. The initial stage of the parasitosis was characterized by the formation of a very itching tiny blister leading to scratching. Then a well visible small channel formed, followed by painful swelling and a suppurative process by *Streptococcus pyogenes*. The result was an open lesion, out of which blood serum and pus leaked. The most affected areas (with 7/10 larval attacks) were the thighs, the calves and the pelvis. Lesions on the arms were rare. The recovery was obtained after squeezing lesions up to the complete removal of parasites (dead) and after giving Tetracycline. We think that, from an epidemiological point of view, the period October/November is a particularly dangerous moment, since those *Gasterophilus* larvae that could not reach the host are led to do an extreme attempt of adapting themselves by penetrating any host within their range.