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PROGRAM & ABSTRACT

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Key words: Trematoda, Clypeomorus bifasciata, Kuwait Bay, Philophthalmus sp.

(30)

New Aspects On Leishmaniasis

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(31)

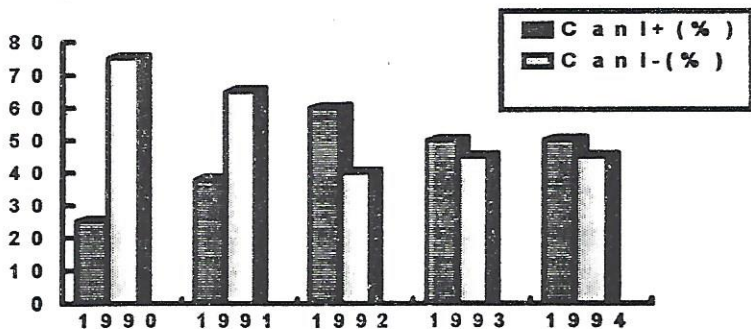
Canine Leishmaniasis In Umbria (Central Italy): Incidence From 1990to1994.

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Key words: *L.infantum*, dogs, epidemiology, I.F.A.T In Italy the aetiological agent of canine Leishmaniasis is Leishmania infantum and the clinical picture is characterized by a visceral distribution of parasites (spleen, bone marrow, liver and lymphnodes) followed by a massive localization of the parasitized macrophages in the skin. In a typical Mediterranean focus, patent cases represented by patent pre-clinical forms (30-40%) or by resolutive cases (Bettini S. and Gradoni L., *Insect. Sci. Appl.*, 7,245, 1986). Nowadays seems to be not doubt that canine infections are mainly responsible for human visceral Leishmaniasis; thus the dog can be considered as the major reservoir of the disease and the pre-clinical cases are of great epidemiological importance, since they represent a latent reservoir which may evolve toward ineffective cases in the course of 1 year of more.

Due to the lack of data on the epidemiology of canine Leishmaniasis in our region, in the present note we report the results of a serological study performed in a five years period on the domestic dog population. The survey was carried out from January 1990 to December 1994 on sera of dogs with suspect symptomatology of the disease sent in our laboratory (reference diagnostic center) for

serological confirmation by veterinary ambulatories. Sera were examined by Immunofluorescence Antibody Test (I.F.A.T.) employing promastigotes of L.infantum, cultured in medium NNN, as antigen. Sera were assayed routinely at dilution from 1:80 (threshold titre) and then positive samples were serially diluted and titrated. Out of 120,000 estimated dogs present in the Umbria region, a total of No. 1,572 (1.31%) was examined and No. 761 (48.40%) showed a positive I.F.A.T. The distribution of annual prevalence rate of I.F.A.T. positive dogs and of the incidence during the period under study are reported in Fig.1.



The results indicated an increasing trend of the incidence curve until to 1992 and then the values showed tendency to stability. A higher frequency distribution of positive dogs up to the 4th year age was found; the positive rates were 72% for oligosymptomatic cases and 28% for symptomatic cases. The monthly prevalence of serological positivity in the context of every year showed higher values (%) during summer season, a period coinciding with the activity phase of phlebotomine sandflies in Central Italy.