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PROGRAM & ABSTRACT

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Human Ophthalmomyiasis By *Oestrus Ovis* In Umbria(Central Italy).

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Human ophthalmomyiasis by *Oestrus ovis* is in Italy quite frequent among shepherds and oestrosis is highly spread in flocks. The human infection is also present, in recent times less rarely than in the past; in inhabited areas, where there is promiscuity with pastures. Reported herein are three cases of conjunctive ophthalmomyiasis in Umbria (Central Italy), in highly urbanized peripheric areas, in a girl (age 15) and in two men (age 58 and 31). The numbers of larvae isolated by the three patients, located on their bulbar conjunctiva and in the lower conjunctival fornix, were respectively 14, 10 and 9. The infection had been direct: infesting larvae had been thrown out by *Oestrus ovis* flies while flying. The patients conjunctiva appeared intensely hyperemic with a severe papillar reaction of palpebral conjunctiva and small subconjunctival hemorrhages, and the cornea presented a punctate keratitis. All the patients referred to have felt a sudden violent ocular inflammation, with the sensation of a foreign body and intense lacrimation in their eye. After application of topical anesthetic, all larvae were removed by pliers and kept in 10% formalin to be identified in laboratory. A therapy based on Tobramicina in collyrium was prescribed, sometimes associated to Desametazone, four times a day; all symptoms and clinic signs went backwards in five day's time.

Although this parasitosis occurs frequently among shepherds, it is important, in our opinion, to report that a larger promiscuity between pasture areas and urban areas represents a serious danger for population living in periphery. The temporary absence of sheep in some areas and the biological characteristics of this viviparous fly lead it to choose man as a substitute host, when depositing larvae becomes an impelling need for the fly. The colonization of urban peripheries by *Oestrus ovis* in Umbria is strictly related to the increase of sheep breedings, for which a better rationalization of pastures would be necessary.