

PRELIMINARY NOTE ABOUT OCCURRENCE OF *LEPTOSPIRA WOLFFII* IN SÃO PAULO, BRASIL

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SUMMARY

The Authors refer the occurrence of two cases of human leptospirosis by *Leptospira wolffii* in the city of São Paulo, one of them (A.L.) with a clinical picture of classical Weil's disease and the other (D.A.M.) with symptoms of meningitis. From the spinal fluid of the second was isolated a leptospira, which in the preliminary tests behaved as belonging to the serotype *L. wolffii*. A similar leptospira was isolated from the kidney of a rodent captured in the back-yard of the first patient's house. A serologic investigation was carried out on neighbours of this patient and revealed five other individuals with serum agglutination positive to *L. wolffii* with titers of 1/100 and 1/200.

According with the literature, the human leptospirosis by *L. wolffii* was demonstrated only in Indonesia by Wolff (1937), in Malaya by TRIMBLE⁴ and still in Malaya by ALEXANDER et al.^{1, 2}, when he isolated several samples of an incomplete biotype named *L. wolffii* A. The main interest of this preliminary notice is based on the fact that the human leptospirosis caused by *L. wolffii* is very rare in the world and on the fact that we accomplished in our laboratory the isolation of two samples of leptospiros which in the preliminary tests behaved as belonging to the serotype *L. wolffii*.

In August of 1965, has been admitted in a hospital for infectious diseases, "Hospital de Isolamento Emílio Ribas", a patient, A.L., white, 45 years old, married, with clinical picture of Weil's disease, fever, jaundice and oliguria. Sero-agglutination test was positive to *L. wolffii* firstly at the titer of 1/400 and after reached the titer of 1/6,400. The patient recovered but presented uveitis as sequela of his illness.

He lived in São Paulo, city with about 5,000,000 inhabitants, in a house with good conditions of hygiene, but he was building a new one in a distant quarter, just at the neighbourhood of a perennial wood of a national park named "Horto Florestal", where he has been infected. We made a serological inquest among near 80 residents of those quarter and we found five more cases with sero-agglutination positive to *L. wolffii* (titers from 1/100 to 1/200). Rodents and other animals of that area were investigated and from a rodent was isolated a leptospira which behaved in the preliminary tests as belonging to the serotype *L. wolffii*. From the water of a little pond situated near the new building a leptospira was isolated which was agglutinated in the preliminary tests by the immune serum against *L. icterohaemorrhagiae*, *L. pyrogenes* and *L. javanica*.

Another serologic investigation has been carried out among the residents and workers of the "Horto Florestal" where among 73 samples examined two sera were positive to

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L. wolffii until 1/400. Animals were been caught and investigated to detect leptospiroses.

In October another patient, D.A.M., white, 35 years old, married, ingressed in the "Hospital de Isolamento Emílio Ribas". He presented sero-agglutination positive to *L. wolffii* showing clinical picture with majority of symptoms of meningitis.

The examination of spinal fluid in dark-field revealed the presence of leptospiroses and after culture in Fletcher's medium a leptospira was isolated which in the preliminary tests behaved as belonging to the serotype *L. wolffii*. The patient D.A.M. lives in a quarter in the periphery of São Paulo city, not very far from the house where lived A.L. the other patient. The researches go on and our intents are to send isolated specimens to the Laboratories of Reference in order to have a final identification.

RESUMO

Nota prévia sobre a ocorrência da Leptospira wolffii em São Paulo, Brasil

Os Autores relatam a ocorrência de leptospirose humana por *Leptospira wolffii* em dois pacientes, residentes em São Paulo, um (A.L.) com quadro clínico da clássica moléstia de Weil, e outro (D.A.M.) com sintomatologia de meningite; do líquido céfalo-raquidiano foi isolada uma leptospira que

nas provas preliminares se comportou como pertencendo ao sôrotipo *L. wolffii*. Leptospira análoga foi isolada do rim de roedor capturado no quintal da residência do paciente A.L. Inquérito sorológico efetuado entre seus vizinhos demonstrou a existência de cinco pacientes com sôro-aglutinação positiva para *L. wolffii* aos títulos de 1/100 e 1/200.

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