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Experimental chemotherapy of dermatobiosis in laboratory animals.

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Abstract : *Dermatobia hominis* causes serious damage to cattle hides, with losses in the leather industry; and occasionally there are human infections which can even be fatal. Laboratory studies of chemotherapeutic agents have been made by previous workers, using houseflies as egg carriers to infect moderate-sized animals such as goats, dogs or rabbits. Smaller laboratory animals would, however, be an

because of the large numbers of experiments necessary in screening samples. The authors have obtained large numbers of bots (well grown larval *D. hominis*) from slaughterhouses, as well as from calves infected in the laboratory. When they pupate, the pupae are kept in sawdust, at 28 °C and 70 to 95% relative humidity. When the adult flies emerged they were kept in 25 X 25 X 25 cm cages. Houseflies were reared, on a powdered milk and water larval diet, at 25 °C. Groups of 200 houseflies were caged with varying numbers of *D. hominis* flies (up to 40). The flies were later tested for *D. hominis* eggs (the numbers of egg-carrying flies were roughly equal to the numbers of *D. hominis* per cage). Eggs taken from these houseflies hatched within a minute on transferring to the palm of a hand and could be transferred to experimental animals.

The animals thus infected comprised: 340 rats, 30 hamsters, 30 mice and 20 guinea pigs. In the smaller animals, the infections caused the following mortalities: 77% of mice; 100% hamsters; 0.8% rats.

The rats were thus satisfactory for use in chemotherapeutic trials, carried out with trichlorfon (trichlorophenol), which is known to be effective against warble flies. The results showed complete kills of *D. hominis* maggots by doses of 300 mg/kg (administered either percutaneously or orally) and about 25 to 60% at 50 mg/kg. The calf infections were maintained to determine the major drop-out period; this occurred at the 5th week after infection. It was concluded that complete control of *D. hominis* in the laboratory could be maintained with bovines, and therapeutic trials could be carried out with rats. *J. R. Busvine*

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