

## **Short Communication**

### **Animal Production**

#### **Incidence of Myiasis in Sheep Caused by *Chrysomya bezziana* in Saudi Arabia**

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**Abstract.** Twelve cases of *Chrysomya bezziana* were found in sheep in Riyadh Region of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh, Alkharj, Aldiriyah, and Huraymala City). Larvae were collected and reared in the laboratory to Adults for identification and further studies.

#### **Introduction**

The infestation of tissues by myiasis flies larvae is widespread in livestock. Economically, the most important obligate myiasis fly species are the New and Old World screw-worm flies, *Cochliomyia hominivorax* and *Chrysomya bezziana*. The infestations of *C. bezziana* can result in loss of condition and death if not treated [1].

*Cochliomyia hominivorax* is found in Central and South America [2] and was accidentally introduced into Libya, but was eradicated by the sterile insect technique [3]. While, *C. bezziana* occurs in Africa, the Middle East, Indian Sub-continent and South East Asia [4]. *Chrysomya bezziana* also occur in Arabian Gulf Countries; in Bahrain [5] Kuwait and Qatar [6] and the United Arab Emirates [7]. However, in Saudi Arabia, Ansari and Oertley [8] reported a single myiasis case in a 14 years old female due to *C. bezziana*, but is yet to be reported in animals.

This note describes the incidence of myiasis in sheep in various locations in Riyadh Region of Saudi Arabia (Fig.). A total of 12 cases of myiasis were detected in sheep in Riyadh Region, Saudi Arabia: 6 in Alkharj and 2 each in Riyadh, Al-Dirriyah and Huraymala cities (Table 1.). The lesions occurred on the heads, legs, feet, back,

and vulva. All larvae were removed by forceps. Number of larvae per lesion were between (7-30), 90% of them were third instars and the rest were first and second. In each case old larvae were placed on clean sand for adults emergence. The purpose was to have adults for identification.

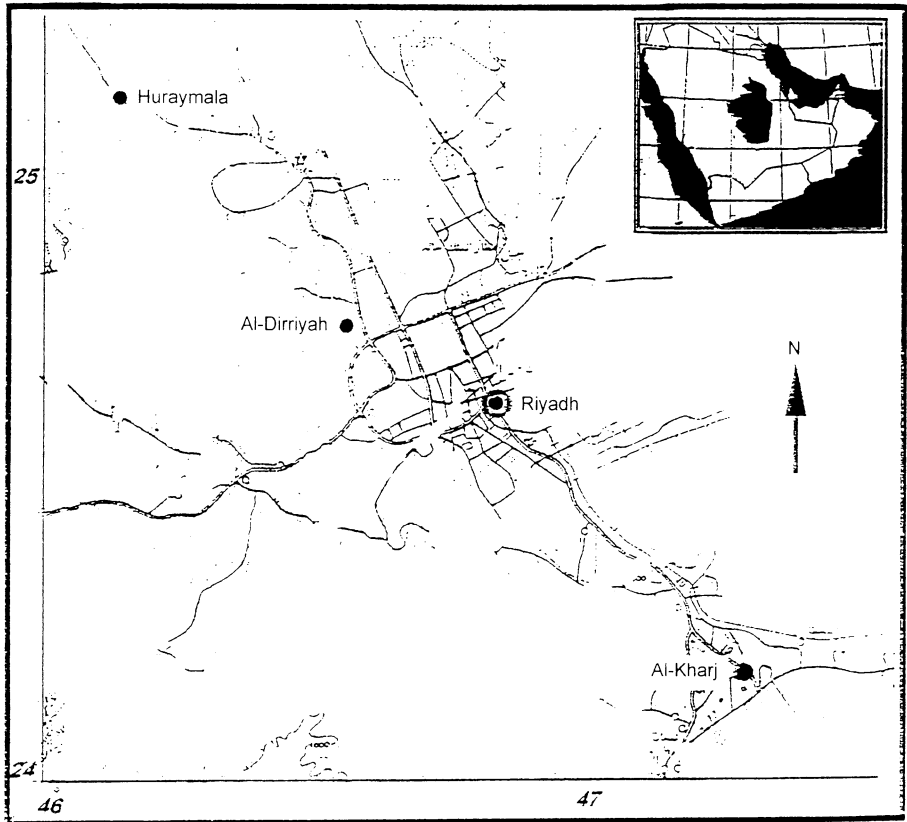


Fig. Distribution of myiasis due to *Chrysomya bezziana* in Riyadh region of Saudi Arabia.

Table 1. Myiasis in sheep in various locations in Riyadh Region, Saudi Arabia

Dates collected	Location	Number of cases	Location in animal
17/03/98	Alkharj	6	Head, legs, back, foot, and vulva.
01/03/99	Riyadh	2	Between hind legs
03/03/99	Aldiriyah	2	Between hind legs
17/02/00	Huraymala	2	Between hind legs

Emerging adults and larvae were identified as *Chrysomya bezziana* Villeneuve and identification was confirmed by British Museum (Natural History). Further survey is going on now to check for any myiasis in livestock animals in the area.

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حالات تدويد في الأغنام ناتج عن الإصابة بالديدان الحلزونية *Chrysomya bezziana* في المملكة العربية السعودية

(بمختصر)

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ملخص البحث. وجدت اثني عشرة حالة تدويد يرقي نتيجة الإصابة بالديدان الحلزونية *Chrysomya bezziana* Villeneuve في الأغنام في منطقة الرياض بالمملكة العربية السعودية (الرياض، الخرج، الدرعية، حريملاء). تم إخراج اليرقات و معظمها من العمر الثالث من جروح الحيوانات، ثم تم تربيتها في المختبر حتى أصبحت حشرات كاملة لتأكيد التصنيف وللدراسات المستقبلية.