

## Screw-worm *chrysomya bezziana* myiasis of native animals in Diyala provinces 'Iraq

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### Abstract

The study aimed to determine the prevalence of Old world screw fly (OWS) fly infection in Diyala province, Iraq. A total of 188 native animals were examined (cattle, sheep, goat, horses)

varying ages in different regions of the province by weekly visits to the veterinary hospital in Diyala during the period from November 2014 to March 2015. The 36 domestic animals were infected from total No. 188 animals examined with percentage rate 20% from the total inspected animals with significant difference  $p \leq 0.05$ . The monthly OWS larvae's infection shows a highly infestation rate in November 44% from total inspected animals while the lowest rate in February was 0%. The animals' kinds give varying rates of OWS infection during the study period. The highly rate in sheep 23% and the lowest rate in goat 12% from the 36 infected animals. And about the body regions the legs show the highest rate 53% from the infected animals while the lowest rate in back region is 5% only without significant difference  $p \leq 0.05$  between the different body regions.

**Key words :** myiasis , chrysomya , animal, Diyala

### الخلاصة:

هدفت الدراسة إلى تحديد مدى انتشار ذبابة العالم القديم (الذبابة الحلزونية) في محافظة ديالى - العراق . حيث تم فحص 188 رأس من الحيوانات الحقلية شملت (الأبقار والأغنام والماعز والخيول) وبأعمار مختلفة في مناطق مختلفة من المحافظة من خلال زيارات أسبوعية إلى المستشفى البيطري في ديالى للفترة من تشرين الثاني 2014 إلى آذار 2015. أظهرت الدراسة أصابه 36 حيوان حقل من مجموع الحيوانات المفحوصة والبالغ عددها 188 وبنسبة إصابة كلية بلغت 20% مع وجود فروقات معنوية تحت  $p \leq 0.05$  . أظهرت الدراسة الشهرية للإصابة بيرقات الذبابة الحلزونية ارتفاع نسبة الإصابة بشكل ملحوظ في شهر تشرين الثاني بلغت 44% من مجموع الحيوانات المفحوصة بينما كانت اوطأ نسبة لأصابه في شهر شباط بلغت 0% . أعطت الأنواع الحيوانية نسب إصابة مختلفة خلال فترة الدراسة كانت اعلاها في الاغنام 23% وأوطأها في الماعز وبنسبة 12% من مجموع 36 حيوان مصاب . اما بالنسبة لأصابه مناطق الجسم فكانت اعلى نسبة في منطقة الارجل 53% بينما كانت اقل النسب في منطقة الظهر مع عدم وجود اي فروق معنوية تحت مستوى.

### I

#### Introduction

The old world screw worm (OWS) fly, *Chrysomya bezziana* (Villeneuve) (Diptera : Calliphoridae) is an obligatory parasite of mammalian host throughout Africa and middle east

Gulf region ,the Indian subcontinent, south east Asia and new Guinea (1) the numerous myiasis which affect animals, the New World screw worm (NWS) (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) and Old

World screwworm (OWS) (*Chrysomya bezziana*) flies are the most damaging. Infestation causes serious morbidity and, if left untreated, mortality.(2)

and they give 82% reduction in the weight in sheep (3). The reproductive mature of *C. bezziana*, 6-8 days old, female is attracted to wound for oviposition, the oviposition occurs in the afternoon at three-day intervals. A batch of about 100 eggs are laid on the upper, dry side of the wound. Within 16<sup>th</sup> larvae emergence and burrow deeply into the wound. After 6 to 8 days larvae leave the wound and pupate in the soil. Development rate of immature stage is influenced by environmental temperature, being slower at low temperature. The pupal stage lasts generally 8 to 10 days thus the complete cycle takes at least 3 weeks.(4). The record of old world screw worm in the Mesopotamia valley in Iraq in September. The cases of livestock myiasis caused by OWS developed seasonally pattern. The annual cycle of clinical OWS cases is explained here on the basis of environmental variables that affect the different life cycle stages of *C. bezziana*. This analysis suggests that low temperature restricted pupal development during winter, whereas the dispersal of adult flies was constrained by hot dry summer conditions, pupal development was fastest during the autumn month, in autumn, rapid multiplication, in addition, low temperature, the humidity that affected the screw worm. The insect reproduces by laying its eggs in open wounds and mucous membranes of warm-blooded mammals. Upon hatching, the OWS larvae eat the living flesh of the host animals, causing injury, secondary infection and in extreme cases

death.(5) thus, a first case was reported of cutaneous myiasis by old world screw worm *Chrysomya bezziana* in camels in Basra province south Iraq in 2006. Camels were brought from AL-Zubair city and then to Basra marsh. Many larvae from injury in the knee and thigh region which exposed to stress during transportation.(6). Hence, the study included 250 water buffaloes from the marsh of Basra during 2006. There were 32 positive cases of *Chrysomya bezziana* larvae causing subcutaneous myiasis. This report considers the first record of (OWS) in buffalo. The study showed that foot and mouth disease, ticks, lice bites are among many other factors for OWS to bite but their eggs in small injuries cause myiasis in mammals. The study shows *C. bezziana* larvae were resistant to water environment in which they live.(7). The number of myiasis detected on animals in most provinces from 1996 to 2013 are provided. The high numbers of myiasis in most provinces in late 1990 were followed by lower numbers and subsequent apparent elimination in about half of the provinces. Myiasis were detected mainly in sheep (77.0%) and goat (16.7%). A temporal comparison of OWS fly detection with traps and animals myiasis in Babil province demonstrated a similar sensitivity (8). and in Iran found the highly infection rate was demonstrated in sheep when examined 986 specimens and geographical races of screw worm fly were identified based on morphological characters by using a key. The study of morphological characters of old world worm fly population of south western Iran suggested that specimens are the same with Arabian race characters and demonstrated that the outbreak of *C. bezziana* in Iran related

to population that originated from Arab countries of the Persian Gulf like united Arab Emirates.(9).the Outbreaks in areas where screwworm has already been eradicated divert costly programmed resources and slow progress southward, and are considered emergencies. Some problems encountered and the solutions found during the height of the eradication programme in Mexico which are required to control or eradicate screwworms. Programs for this highly mobile parasite encompass large geographic areas and consequently require active and continuous international participation.(10)

The dispersal of the insect is primarily influenced by the vegetation cover and the availability of wounds suitable for oviposition by females(11) Recent studies of OWS dispersal activity in the Mesopotamia Valley show that despite the seasonal fluctuation in overall OWS populations, they always remain within well vegetated areas In essence(12) this results in the OWS being mainly dispersed along the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers Through the analysis of data from capture and release experiments The result of this process is that the OWS population is pulled into areas where availability is higher and vegetation cover is more favourable. In Oman The Old world screwworm(OWS),

*Chrysomya bezziana* seems to be widespread infesting goats and sheep throughout the Sultanate. The overall infection percentage with OWS myiasis in goats was 87.7% and in sheep was 12.3%. Cases have been reported all the year round, but the outbreaks were mostly common during the cooler months (January-May) with peak foci during (March-April) in which there is a suitable weather of

humidity and rain for the growth and development of the larvae.(13) ,(14) the annual costs incurred by the parasite in the south-western USA were estimated at US\$100 million At the time of eradication in Mexico, savings due to eradication in that country were estimated at millions a year. Costs of reinfestation by NWS in the USA, if allowed to spread, have been estimated more recently at US\$453 million a year. (15)

#### **Material and method**

A total of 188 native animals were examined (cattle, sheep, goat, horses) varying ages in different regions of the Diyala province by 2 Visited weekly to the outpatient clinic for veterinary hospital in Diyala during the period from November 2014 to March 2015. to determine the most species of flies causing myiasis. the animals were wounded on different sites of their bodies. The fly larvae were removed from infested host animals using forceps and they were first killed by putting them in hot water. Then they were transferred into test tubes which contained 70- 80% alcohol and sent to parasitology laboratory of College of Veterinary Medicine to their identification. The larvae were directly prepared and kept in a petri dish and the identification was carried out under the binocular microscope (X50 magnification) according to the characters described by(14)

#### **Morphology of the third instar larvae:**

Plates (3-8) show images of the morphology of 3rd. instar larvae of *C. bezziana*, these are the most common features (posterior and anterior spiracles, spine bands and tracheal trunks of the larvae) which distinguished this species of myiasis from others. with digital DP 71 Olympus camera(4X).

**Result and Discussion**

The (ows) fly wide distribution in Iraq province's specially in medial and south areas of government sense 1990 .in Dyialaprovinces' the 36 domestic

animals were infected from total no 188 animals examined with percentage rate 20% from the total inspected animals (table 1).

**Table (1) The total rate of infected animals in Diyalaprovinces**

Total no .of animals	Total infected animals	%
188	36	20

The monthly (ows)infction show highly infestation rate in November 44% from total inspected animals, followed by December , January ,and march (15, 15, 8) respectively . while the lowest rate in February was conducted 0% with significant difference  $p \leq 0.05$  . (table 2)( Scheme1) the other study show that low temperature restricted pupal development during winter, whereas the dispersal of adult flies was constrained by hot dry summer condition ,pupal development was fastest during the autumn month, in autumn ,rapid multiplication ,in additional low temperature ,the humidity that affected to screw worm(5)

**Table (2) Monthly( OWS) detected cases in Diyalaprovinces during period of study**

month	No. of animals	infected animals	%
November	50	22 <sup>A</sup>	44
December	58	9 <sup>B</sup>	15
January	20	3 <sup>B</sup>	15
February	33	0 <sup>B</sup>	0
March	27	2 <sup>B</sup>	8
total	188	36	20

The animals kinds give varying rates of ( OWS)infection during the study period. The highly rate in sheep 23% followed by horse , cattle (20, 18) respectively while the lowest in goat 12% with significant difference  $p \leq 0.05$  (table 3)(Scheme2) in Babil province demonstarted a similar sensitivity myiasis were detected mainly in sheep (77.0%)and goat(16.7%).(8)

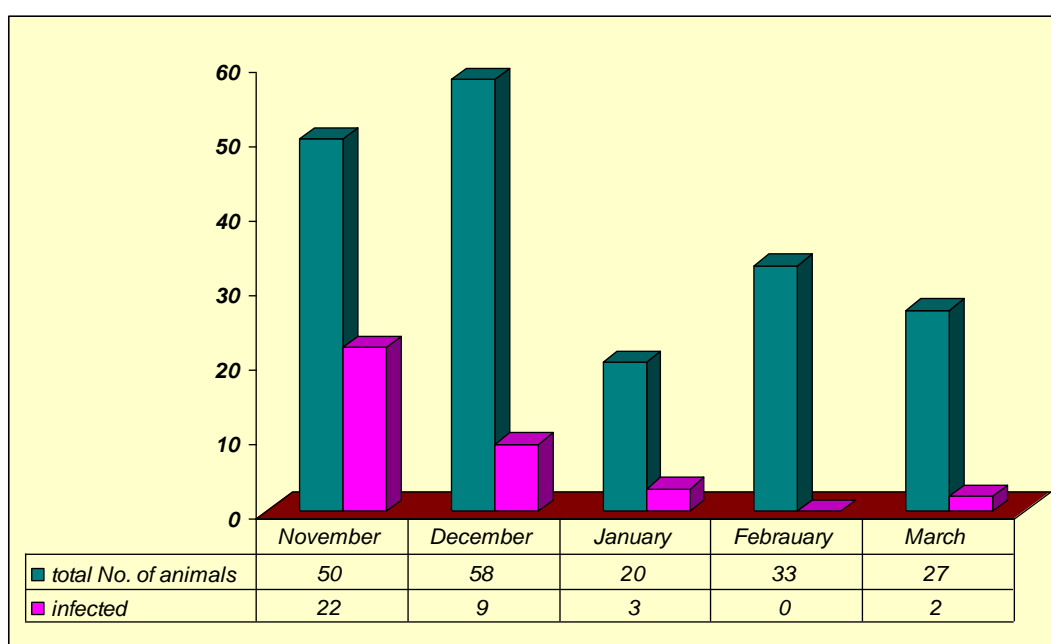
**Table (3) the infected animals rate during the study in the diyalaprovinces**

Kind of animal	No of animal	No . of infected animal	Percentage rate %
cattle	50	9 <sup>B</sup>	18
sheep	100	23 <sup>A</sup>	23
goat	25	3 <sup>B</sup>	12
horse	5	1 <sup>B</sup>	20
total	188	36	20

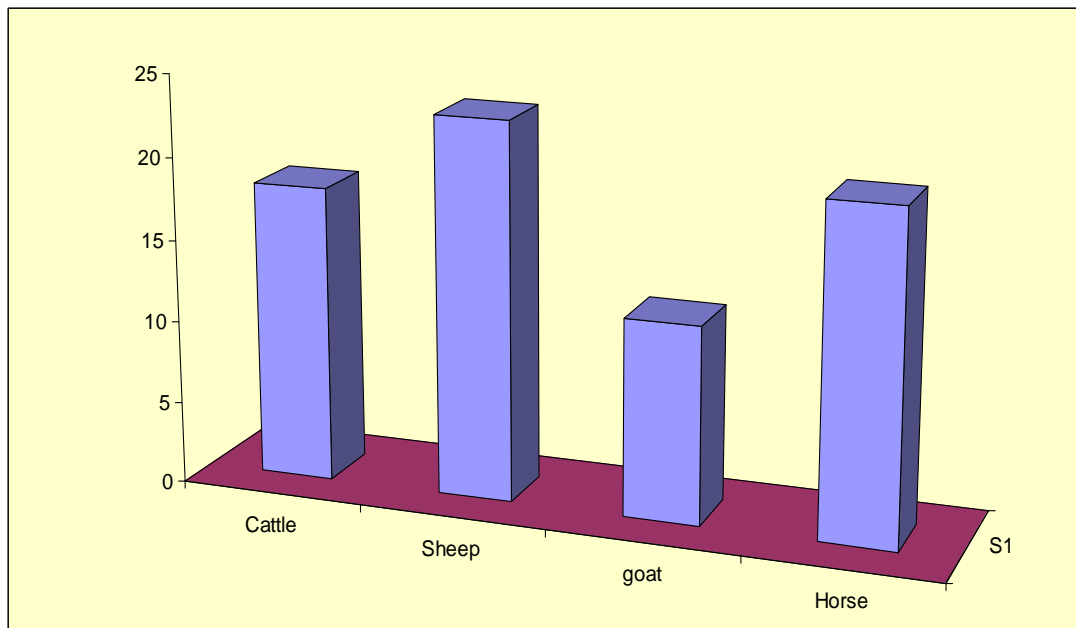
The OWS larvae detected in many body areas depending in wound and other abrasion on animal skin . the legs show highest rate 53% from the infected animals followed by head , abdomen in rate( 30, 11) % respectively . while the lowest rate in in back region in rate 5% only with no significant difference  $p \leq 0.05$  .(table 4)( Scheme 3) ( figure 2,3,4,5) . we thought that the legs are more exposure to injury and scratches from other parts of the body in addition to that the posterior region of the legs usually wet because of the uterine discharge after birth and repeated Diarrhea which attracts the OWS insect to lay eggs in this wetted region.

**Table (4) The OWS larvae infection according to the body regions**

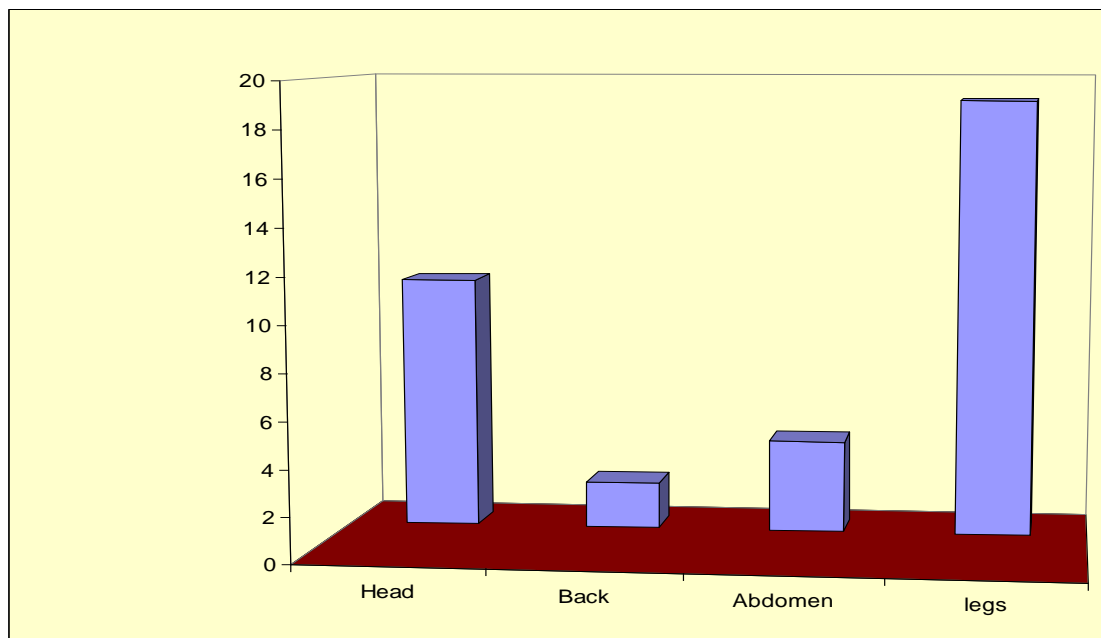
Infected area	No. infected animal	Percentage rate %
Head	11 <sup>A</sup>	30
Back	2 <sup>A</sup>	5
Abdomen	4 <sup>A</sup>	11
Legs	19 <sup>A</sup>	53
Total	36	100



**Scheme(1) Monthly OWS detected cases in Diyalaprovines during the study**



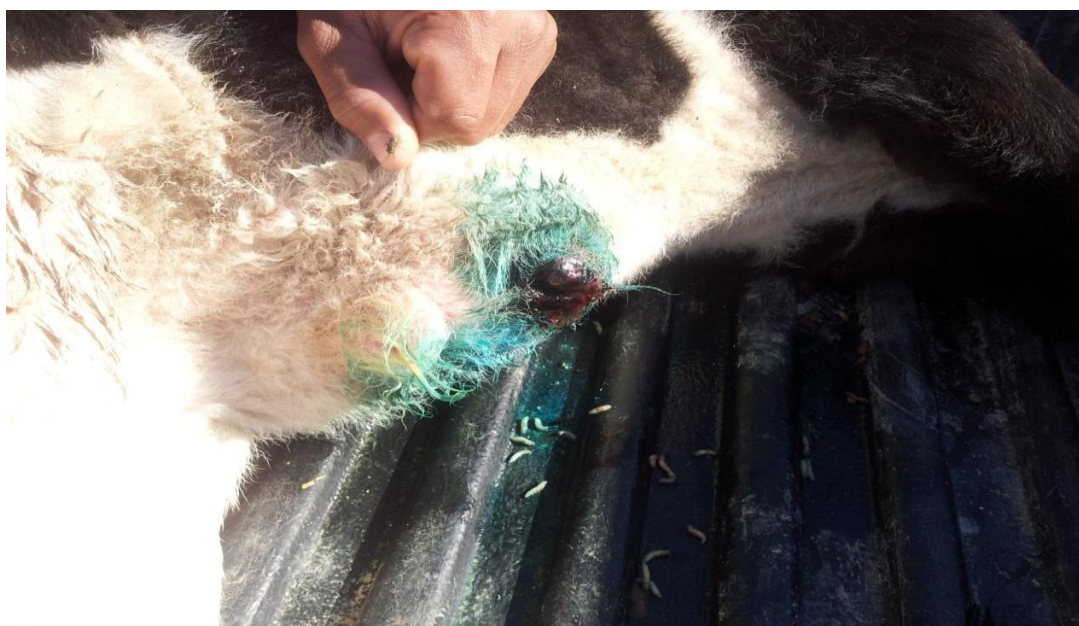
**Scheme(2)infected animals rate during the study in the diyalaprovines**



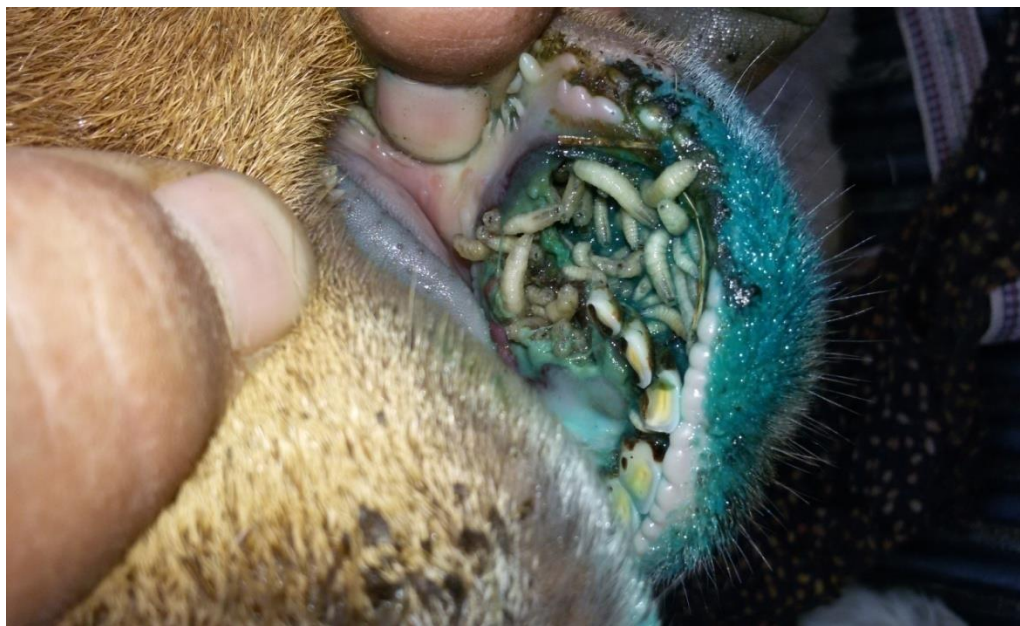
**Scheme(3)The OWS larvaes infection according to the body regions**



**Figure (2) sheep infected with OVS larvae s in head rigion**



**Figure(3) calf infected with OVS larvae s in umbilical region**



**Figure(4) goat infected with OWS larvae's in mouth cavity**



**Figure(5) the sheep leg infected with OWS larvae**

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