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CONCLUSIONS

From the study of early documentation of human infections and diseases caused by zooparasites in Africa and the Western hemisphere and their transmission by the slave trade, the author draws the following conclusions:

Autochthonous in Africa: Sleeping sickness, cutaneous leishmaniasis, malaria, amoebic dysentery, louse-borne relapsing fever and African tick fever, yaws, endemic and venereal syphilis.

Infection with *Ascaris*, *Enterobius*, *Trichocephalus*, *Ancylostoma duodenale*, *Necator americanus*, *Wuchereria bancrofti*, *Loa loa*, *Dracunculus medinensis*, *Onchocerca volvulus*, *Schistosoma haematobium*, *Schistosoma mansoni*, *Taenia saginata*, *Hymenolepis nana*, Leeches.

Mosquitoes, Sandflies, Surret flies (*Tabanidae*), Tsetse flies (*Glossina sp.*), a blood-sucking fly larva, the Congo floor maggot of *Auchmeromyia luteola*, myiasis due to the Tumbu fly *Cordylobia anthropophaga*, *Sarcoptes scabiei*, *Ornithodoros sp.*, fleas, lice, bedbugs, *Porocephalus*.

Autochthonous in America: Cutaneous leishmaniasis, relapsing fever, carate, yaws, endemic and venereal syphilis; infection with *Ascaris*, *Trichocephalus*, *Onchocerca sp.*; Mosquitoes, Sandflies, larva of *Dermatobia cyaniventris*, *Sarcoptes scabiei*, *Ornithodoros sp.*, lice, fleas, *Tunga penetrans*.

Doubtful whether the following infections existed in America before the arrival of the Spaniards and their African slaves: Malaria, amoebic dysentery, *Wuchereria bancrofti*, bedbugs.

Slaves introduced the following infections, some of which occurred already in the Western Hemisphere before the Conquest: Malaria, amoebic dysentery, yaws, endemic and venereal syphilis – *Ascaris*, *Enterobius*, *Trichocephalus*, *Ancylostoma duodenale* and chiefly *Necator americanus*, *Wuchereria bancrofti*, *Dracunculus medinensis*, *Onchocerca volvulus*, *Schistosoma mansoni*, tapeworms – *Sarcoptes scabiei*, lice, fleas.

A parasite introduced by African slaves into the Western Hemisphere which gradually died out: Dracunculus medinensis.

Addition

1. African slaves with sleeping sickness in its initial stage were occasionally shipped to the West Indies and the American continent where they died in due course. Likewise slaves with *Loa loa* infection were sent to the Western Hemisphere. The infection did not spread and after cessation of the slave trade no more *Loa*-infected negro slaves were observed in the New World. One may assume that they all had contracted the infection in Africa.

2. Bedbugs did apparently not exist in Central and South America before the Conquest. They were probably introduced by the Spaniards and Portuguese. For a considerable time parts of South America, for example Peru, were free from bedbugs, which in the course of time by increased communications spread everywhere.

3. The sandflea, *Tunga penetrans*, occurred originally in South and Central America, wherefrom it was carried to a few limited regions in Africa probably already in the seventeenth century, possibly earlier. It did not spread in Africa up to 1872, as the infected places were small and had practically no communication with the surrounding regions. In 1872, *Tunga penetrans* was re-introduced by the British ship *Thomas Mitchell* from Rio de Janeiro to Ambriz (Angola) and with the increased communication at that time spread rapidly, first along the African West Coast and later across the continent to the East Coast.

4. A number of comparatively small scattered communities of African negroes, such as Balboa found on his march to the Pacific, existed in Central and South America in pre-Columbian time. These negroes were probably gradually exterminated by the local Indians or vanished by intermarriage.

5. Foreigners at the Guinea coast, connected with the slave trade, had a high mortality rate due to diseases, especially malaria and dysentery. These diseases played still a very important rôle regarding foreign expeditions in the 19th century.

6. African and pre-Columbian American artists reproduced the signs of a number of parasitic diseases and parasites in terracotta, wood, bronze (brass) and stone.

In Africa reproductions of elephantiasis scroti in terracotta and bronze were especially frequent and go back 2000 years to the time of the Nok culture (c. 500 B.C.-A.D. 200). There are naturalistic wooden figures showing sleeping sickness and delousing apart from many simplified fetish figures. Face mutilation by Gangosa was frequently reproduced in wooden masks and also

in terracotta heads. A highly simplified terracotta tick, kept in the Jos Museum in Nigeria, belongs to the Nok culture.

Excrencences on the inside of an ear of a hyaena-like animal from an Egyptian tomb of about 1500 B.C. at Western Thebes may represent ticks.

In America pre-Columbian artists reproduced in Mochica vessels face mutilations, some probably due to leishmaniasis (uta), furthermore infection with lice and *Tunga penetrans*. Face mutilations caused by leishmaniasis are also shown in terracotta heads from Esmeraldas, northern Ecuador. Fleas were reproduced in terracotta and stone in Peru and Mexico.

A mural of about A.D. 200–300 in a ruined building at Atetelco-Teotihuacán, Mexico, shows a person with an exanthema which may represent bubas or exanthematic typhus.