



# A case of gastrointestinal myiasis caused by *Psychoda albipennis*

Hasan Bayrak<sup>1</sup>, Tulin Demir<sup>2</sup>, Cahit Babur<sup>3</sup>, Sibel Unlu<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Mersin Toros State Hospital, Microbiology Department, Mersin, Turkey

<sup>2</sup> Ahi Evran University Research and Training Hospital, Microbiology Department, Kirsehir, Turkey

<sup>3</sup> Public Health Center, Ankara, Turkey

## OBJECTIVES

Myiasis is seen more frequently in rural regions where people are in close contact with pets. The distribution of human myiasis is worldwide, with more species and greater abundance in poor socioeconomic regions of tropical and subtropical countries. Poor hygiene and low socioeconomic status are the most important risk factors for acquiring myiasis. In countries where it is not endemic, myiasis is an important condition, where it can represent the fourth most common travel-associated skin disease. Generally, myiasis is a self-limited infestation but inflammation in urogenital region, cutaneous, eye, ear, gastric and intestinal region can occur. We report a case of intestinal myiasis in a 38 years old male patient.

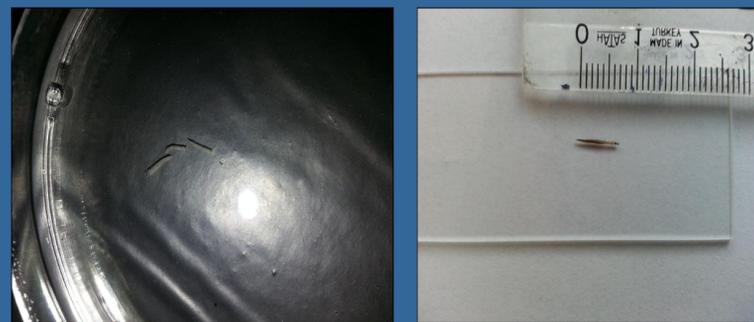


Image. Macroscopic image of the larvae

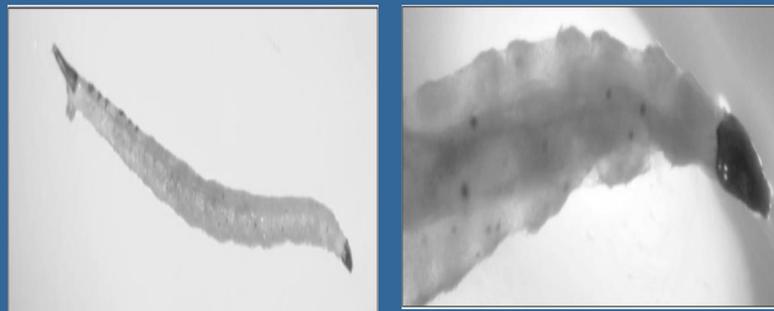


Image. Fourth instar larvae

## CASE

Our case is a male aged 38 years who resides in a rural area in Mersin, located in the southern part of Turkey. He has been visited the out-patient clinics with complaints of colicky abdominal pain, particularly on the supra-pubic region for several times. Moreover, he suffered from loss of appetite, nausea, frequent and painful defecation and vomiting. He is working as a farmer and has close contact with sheep. On his last admission, blood samples and stool sample were send to the laboratory for testing. Blood cell count, biochemical tests were in normal range. The only anormal parameter in blood sample was elevated serum IgE. Moving larvae were observed in the stool. Examination of the stool revealed that *Psychoda albipennis* (Diptera: Nematocera) was the cause of the infestation. The patient was adviced excessive fluid intake. Control examination of the stool sample after seven days, larvae was not observed.

## CONCLUSIONS

In many cases, patients with similar symptoms as this case receives unnecessary oral antibiotics, increasing the development of bacterial resistance. No risk factor was identified in the patient who had proper hygienic conditions, was living in urban area and was of high socioeconomic status. This case was presented to withdraw attention to myiasis which is frequent in Turkey, however, is usually overlooked.

## CONTACT