



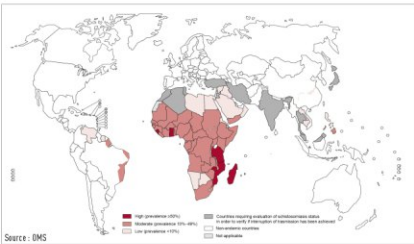
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## WHAT IS SCHISTOSOMIASIS

Schistosomiasis, commonly known as Snail Fever is a tropical parasitic disease caused by the larva of a flatworm. The classic signs of (urogenital) schistosomiasis are blood in urine, pain or difficulty urinating. Urinary track impairment is sometimes observed. However, many individuals infected by the parasite do not experience any symptoms. An infected person, with or without symptoms, will excrete eggs while urinating and may contaminate fresh water.

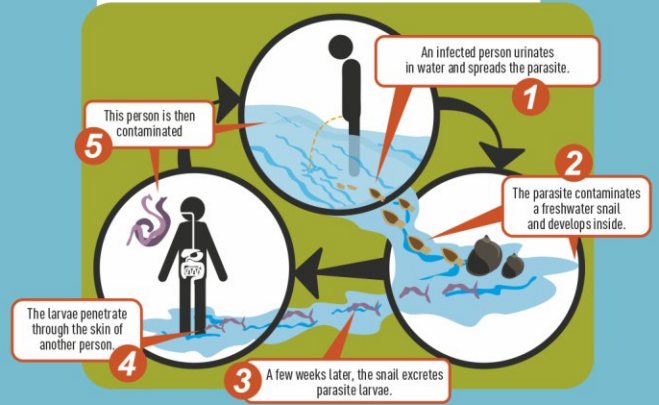
Distribution of schistosomiasis, worldwide, 2012



## WHY IS IT AN ISSUE HERE

Transmission of the disease occurs when people suffering from schistosomiasis contaminate freshwater sources with urine containing parasite eggs. These eggs infect an aquatic snail, called bulin, endemic in some Mediterranean fresh water streams, in particular in the Cavu River, in Corsica. Once the snail is infected, the parasite evolves within a few weeks into a larval form released by the snail. These larvae can penetrate human skin during contact with contaminated water, for instance while bathing.

### THE CYCLE OF SCHISTOSOMIASIS



# SCHISTOSOMIASIS PREVENTION



## HOW TO PREVENT IT

Don't urinate in the water, as this is how the parasites eggs are disseminated in the river. Restrooms are available nearby.

Schistosomiasis is diagnosed either through the detection of parasite eggs in urine samples or by serological and immunological tests. Treatment is effective, safe, and inexpensive. All persons who have been in contact with fresh water in areas where schistosomiasis is found, including bathing in Cavu River from 2013 should be tested.

## WHAT IS BEING DONE

Health authorities and professionals are aware of the risk and can provide you with any additional information you may require. A weekly environmental assessment is carried out, using the best available technology, in order to detect the parasite. The local authorities are committed to this effort to prevent the spread of the parasite and provide equipment (sanitary facilities).



Further information available on the web

<http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/schistosomiasis>