

Research Note

A case of human nasopharyngeal myiasis caused by *Chrysomya bezziana* Villeneuve, 1914 (Diptera: Calliphoridae) in Malaysia

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Myiasis is a pathogenic condition found in live humans and animals caused by various species of dipteran larvae (Zumpt, 1965). The first human case of myiasis in Malaysia was reported by Reid (1953) from a great toe of a patient in Malacca. Later Cheong *et al.* (1973) reported a cause of intestinal myiasis. Since then myiasis cases in Malaysia have been reported sporadically. Generally, myiasis can be classified according to the site of infestation, as nasopharyngeal or nasal, urogenital, cutaneous, intestinal (enteric), aural (ear) myiasis (Oothuman & Jeffery 1984; Lee & Cheong, 1985; Lee & Young, 1991; Lee, & Yong, 1991; Lee *et al.*, 1995; Lee, 1996). Recently Roszalina & Rosalan (2002) reported on two cases of oral myiasis in cerebral palsy patients. However, reports on human myiasis in Malaysia is generally considered relatively few, probably due to a lack of awareness of the importance of flies in inducing myiasis. We report here a case of nasopharyngeal myiasis from a patient in Malaysia for the first time.

CASE REPORT

The patient, a 80 years old Malay woman

was admitted to the Taiping District Hospital, Perak. She presented with epistaxis, throbbing temporal headache and nausea. Nasal blood clots and maggots were also recovered from the nasal cavity. A maggot was preserved in 70% alcohol and sent to the Institute for Medical Research for identification. The third instar maggot was identified as *Chrysomya bezziana*, based on the taxonomic characteristics outlined in Zumpt (1965). The body length of the maggot was 13 cm X 5 mm (Figure 1).

Cases of human nasal myiasis has so far not been reported in Malaysia. In fact, myiasis due to *Ch. bezziana* is rare in Malaysia. This may be due to the habit of *Ch. bezziana* which is an obligatory myiasis producer in a living host. So far, only 2 myiasis cases caused by *Ch. bezziana* were reported in Malaysia (Lee & Cheong, 1985; Ramalingam, 1980) and one case (oral myiasis) suspected of *Ch. bezziana* was also reported (Roszalina & Rosalan, 2002). Clinically myiasis has been subdivided depending on the of infection or man or animal. Oral myiasis can either be primary or occasionally, secondary to nasal involvement, especially when the maggots penetrate to the paranasal sinuses (Roszalina & Rosalan, 2002).

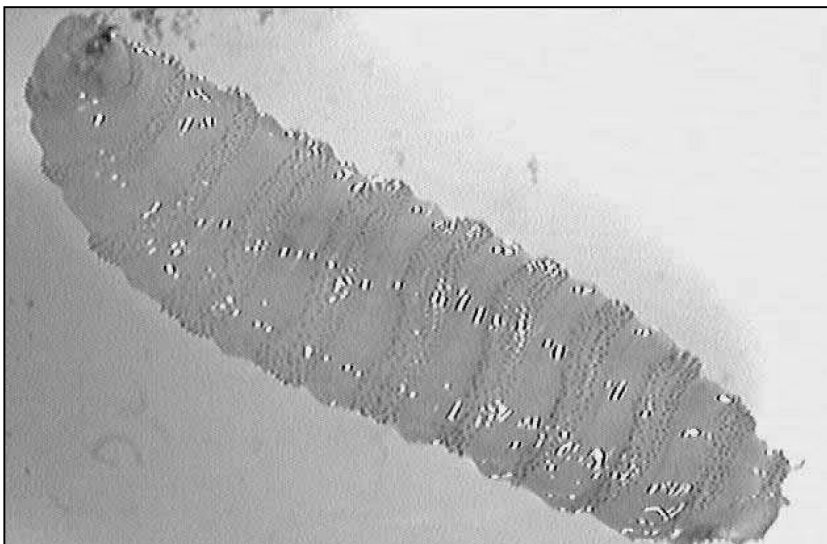


Figure 1. Maggot of *Chrysomya bezziana* recovered from the nasal cavity of the patient.

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