Research Note

A *Dermacentor* tick imported on a traveller to Nepal

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Over twelve million Japanese are said to travel annually to many countries. Some spend their travel on safari or trek among wildlife and occasionally encounter dangerous animals and/or harmful microbes. The authors report herein a case of hard tick infestation in Nepal.

CASE PRESENTATION

The patient was a 67-year-old male, resident of Sunagawa City, Hokkaido. He visited the Royal Chitwan National Park in Nepal on a wild animal-watching excursion from March 12 to 19, 1995.

After returning home, he felt abnormality (swelling, pain, reddening) on the right upper eyelid and went to the Ophthalmic Department of Sunagawa City Hospital on March 22, 1995. A tick was found infesting the site of his eye-lashes (Fig. 1a), and it was detached spontaneously (Fig. 1b).

The detached, engorged tick was identified as the nymph stage of the genus *Dermacentor* by morphological characteristics such as four paired legs, lack of genital aperture, inverse triangular scutum, presence of eyes at both sides of scutum (Fig. 1c-f), but, the specific name could not be determined. No spirochete was detected from the alimentary canals of the tick in BSK medium and, fortunately, this tick did not transmit any other pathogenic or-

ganisms to the patient.

According to Yamaguti (1994, 1995), six imported tick bite cases have so far been observed by himself (three *Amblyomma* ticks: one male *A. herbraem* from South Africa, one nymph *Amblyomma* sp. from Thailand, and one nymph *A. tholloni* from Kenya; one female *Dermacentor andersoni* from the United States, one nymph *Ixodes* sp. from Australia, and one female *I. persulcatus*, from the Republic of China between 1983 and 1995).

Three more imported cases have been reported by others. One was caused by a female *Ixodes persulcatus* from Yuzhino-Sakhalin (Toyohara), Russia, and another one by a female *Amblyomma* sp. from Sri Lanka reported by Hatsushika *et al.* (1992, 1995). One female *Amblyomma americanum* infestation from the United States was described by Kanaizuka *et al.* (1995). All these records indicated the possibility of an increase in imported tick bite cases hereafter.

Hard ticks play vectorial roles for many kinds of microbes including viral, rickettial, bacterial, and protozoal pathogens in respective endemic areas. Accordingly, every case of tick infestation acquired in foreign country should be checked carefully, especially when travelers return from endemic regions of some tick-borne disease. When a tick is found on the body,

Fig. 1. a, The tick infesting the right upper eyelid; b, detached, engorged nymphal tick; c, gnathosoma and scutum; d, hypostome and palpi; e, ventral view of idiosoma; f, spiracular plate.

it should be removed surgically as soon as possible.

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摘 要

ネパール産カクマダニ寄生例

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1995 年 3 月にネパールのチトワン国立公園へ野生動物見物のために旅行した男性が右上眼瞼にカクマダニ若虫の寄生を受けて帰国した。ダニは飽血後に離脱したが病原体の伝播はなかった。