NOTE

THE SUSCEPTIBILITY OF WHITE ONCOMELANIA NOSOPHORA TO INFECTION WITH THE JAPANESE STRAIN OF SCHISTOSOMA JAPONICUM

Ota (1959) reported the finding of 10 white Oncomelania nosophora collected (May 1957) in an endemic area of schistosomiasis japonica in Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan. A laboratory colony of these snails was started at that time.

Newton (1953) reported that an albino Brazilian strain of Australorbis glabratrus is refractory to infection with the Puerto Rican strain of Schistosoma mansoni. It is of interest to test the susceptibility of the white O. nosophora to infection with the Japanese strain of S. japonicum.

Fifty white and 50 normally pigmented laboratory-reared O. nosophora were exposed to miracidia of the Japanese strain of S. japonicum as previously described by Moose and Williams (1963). The miracidia were hatched from ova obtained from livers of infected albino mice. Thirteen weeks after exposure all of the snails were crushed. Seventeen white and 13 pigmented snails were infected.

Results of this study indicate that in their natural habitat, the predecessors of these white laboratory-reared O. nosophora can play a role in the transmission of schistosomiasis.

REFERENCE

