ISSN 0970-9274

JOURNAL OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

International, Interdisciplinary Journal of Man - Environment Relationship

J Hum Ecol, 30(2): 123-130 (2010)
PRINT: ISSN 0970-9274 ONLINE: 2456-6608
DOI: 10.31901/24566608.2010/30.02.07

Tropical City Milieux and Disease Infection: The Case of Douala, Cameroon

Zephania Nji Fogwe* and Fombutio Christopher Ndifor**

**Department of Geography, F. L. S S, Box 3132, Douala, University of Douala, Telephone: +237 77 61 00 39, E-mail: nfogwez@yahoo.co.uk*
***Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science P.O. Box 17491 Douala, University of Douala*

KEYWORDS Contamination. Flood Water. City Milieu. Nematodes. Patients

ABSTRACT Analyses of defects emanating from industrial and urban development have often neglected health hazards. The risks related to commonly cited problems – waste disposal, pollution and congestion – are a function of the level of exposure to such flaws. Douala city combined sustainable growth and development portrays trait-specific features at its Central Business District (CBD), middle belt, and margins reflecting varied levels of exposure to health hazards. One of these hazards is that of parasite infection and particularly intestinal nematodes (worms) that this paper addresses. The health risk of intestinal nematode infections was sampled in 1999 on faecal. Specimens were collected from 1800 patients of different ages, visiting three hospitals within each sector of the city. The most central city hospital was considered to be most exposed to infection while the one at the periphery was least exposed, assuming that patients visit the nearest hospitals. The results reveal a high (48%) infection prevalence for patients of the city centre, tending to reduce (44%) towards the middle belt but being abnormally high (64) at the city periphery, which is a situation identified to be typical of humid tropical cities. Results also revealed that 64.7% of the patients presented 5 intestinal nematodes. Mono parasites involving *Ascaris lumbricoides* and *Trichuris trichuria* (22.5%) were the most frequent as opposed to pluri-like *Ankylostoma specie* and *Enterobius vermicularis* (13%) were least. There was also a variation in the association of species of nematodes. Children aged 5 to 9 years were most affected (88.9%) as opposed to adults.