

Urinary Schistosomiasis among Pre-School and School Aged Children in Two Peri-Urban Communities in Southwest Nigeria

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Abstract : A cross-sectional study was conducted between March and April, 2016 among pre-school and school-aged children in two peri-urban communities in Osun State, Southwest Nigeria. Urine samples were collected from the pre-school and school-aged children, tested for microhaematuria using reagent strips, processed and examined for *Schistosoma haematobium* ova. Out of 274 pupils examined, 132 (48.2%) had infection, with no statistically significant difference ($P > 0.05$) in infection between male (48.6%) and female pupils (47.6%). The prevalence of infection increases significantly with age ($P < 0.05$), with the peak (93.3%) of infection recorded in pupils aged 15 to 16 years and the lowest infection (10.0%) in pupils aged 3 to 4 years. There was no statistically significant association ($P > 0.05$) between intensity in male pupils ($156.0 \pm 34.5/10$ ml) and female pupils ($141.7 \pm 29.5/10$ ml). The prevalence of pupils with microhaematuria was 65.0% and it increased significantly with age ($P < 0.001$). The conclusion drawn from the study is that to reduce the transmission of *S. haematobium* in endemic communities, health education and provision of potable water are advocated.

Keywords : *Schistosoma haematobium*, microhaematuria, prevalence, urinary schistosomiasis, school aged children, Nigeria

Conference Title : ICSEER 2017 : International Conference on Silviculture, Environment and Resources

Conference Location : New York, United States

Conference Dates : June 04-05, 2017