



# Mosquito Parasites

Mark S. Blackmore, PhD

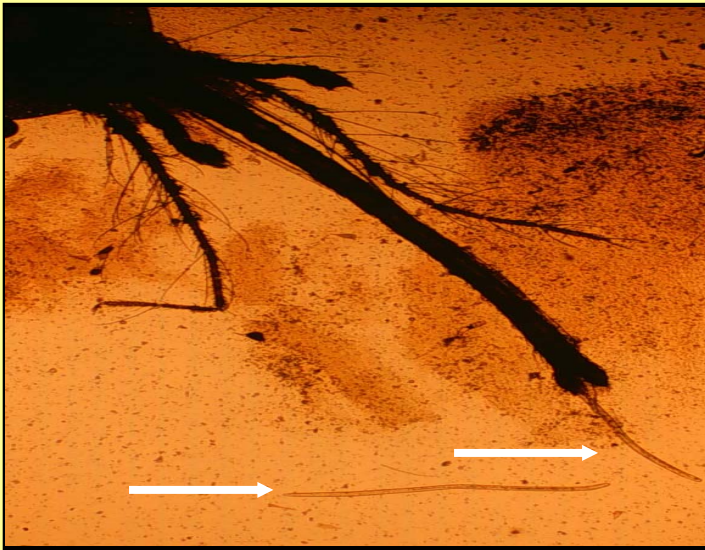
*Department of Biology*

*Valdosta State University*

# Parasitism is one form of symbiosis

## Relationship to host varies

- Parasites



Host not killed

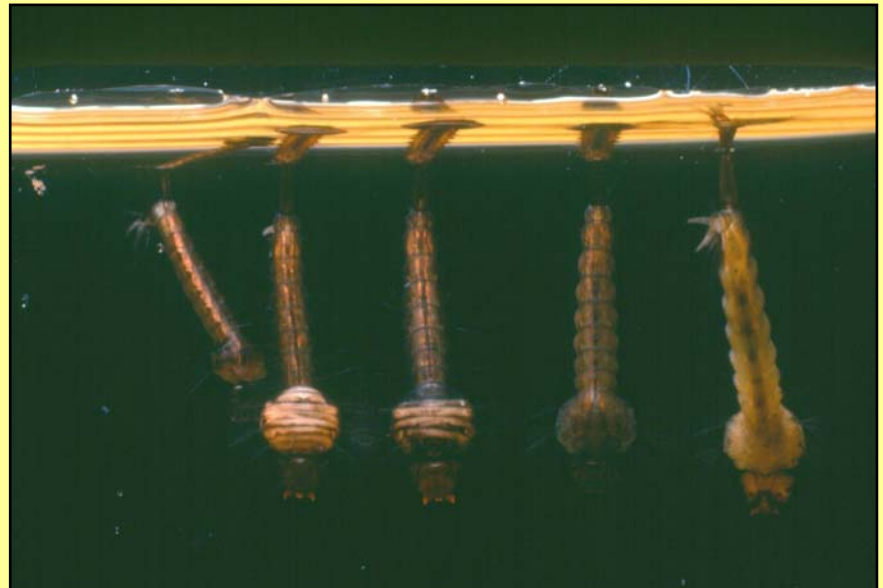
- Parasitoids



Host dies

# Types of Parasites

- Endo- internal vs. Ecto- external
- Obligate vs. Facultative
- How many hosts?
  - Monoxenous
  - Oligoxenous
  - Polyxenous



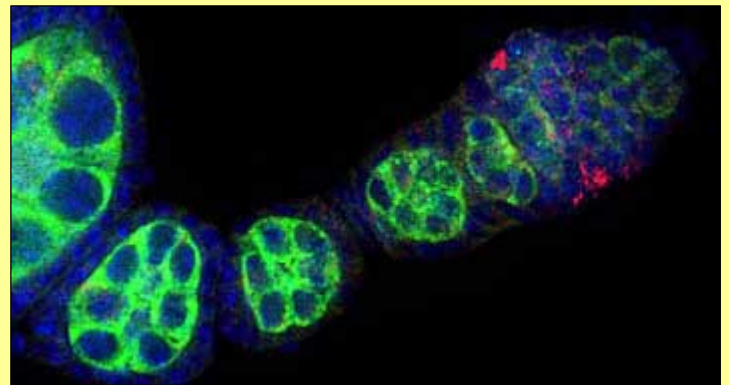
# Mosquito Parasites/Parasitoids Include...

- Bacteria →
- Protozoans →
- Nematodes →
- Mites →
- Pseudoscorpions →



# *Wolbachia pipientis*

- Intracellular parasites
- Pass in female line
- Effects include...
  - Cytoplasmic incompatibility
  - Filarid nematode pathogenicity



# Apicomplexan Protozoans

- *Plasmodia spp.*
- *Ascogregarina spp.*

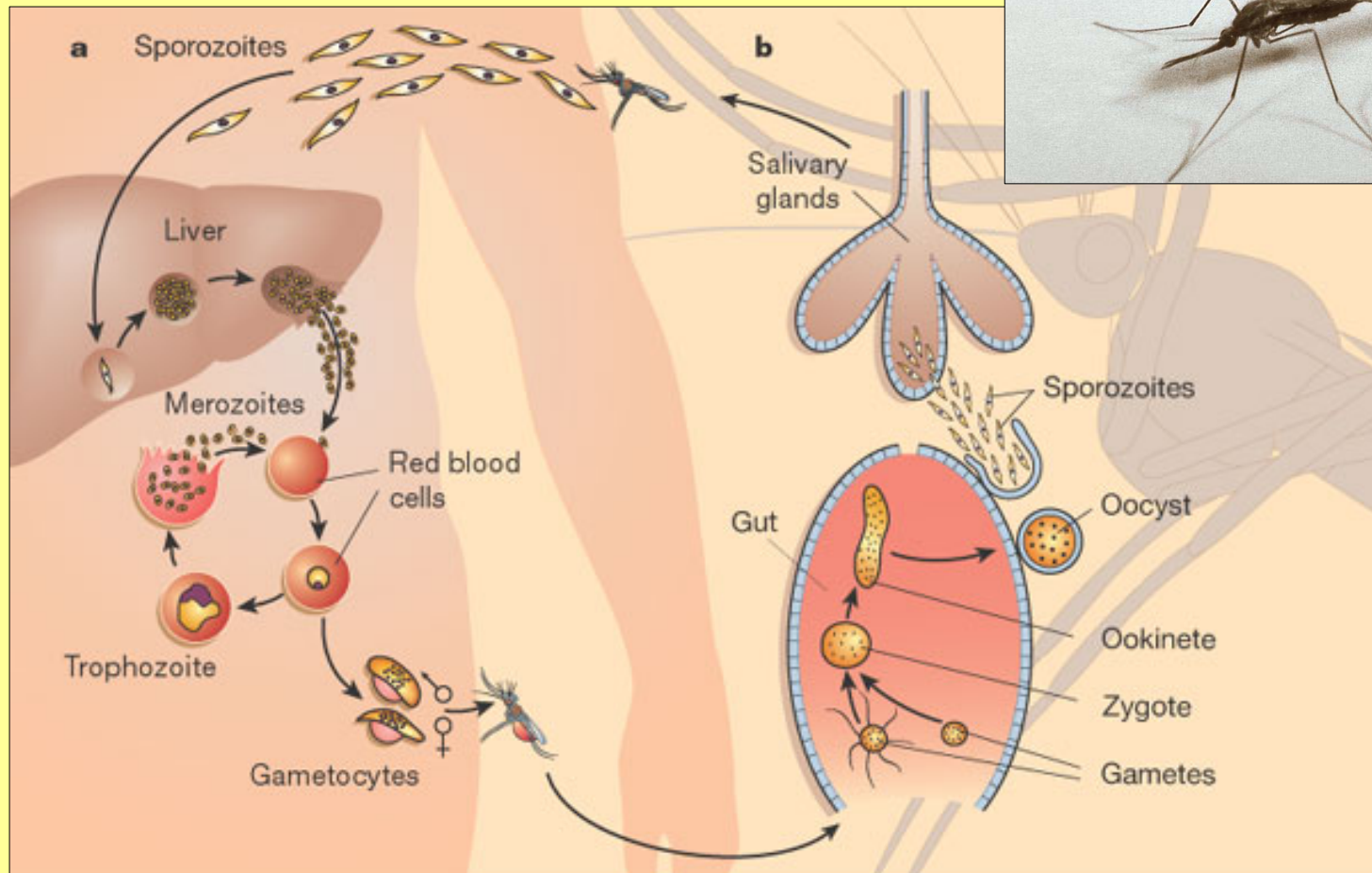
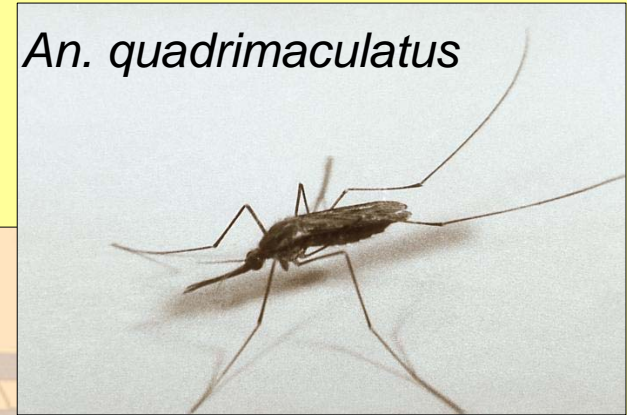


Image by R. E. Sinden

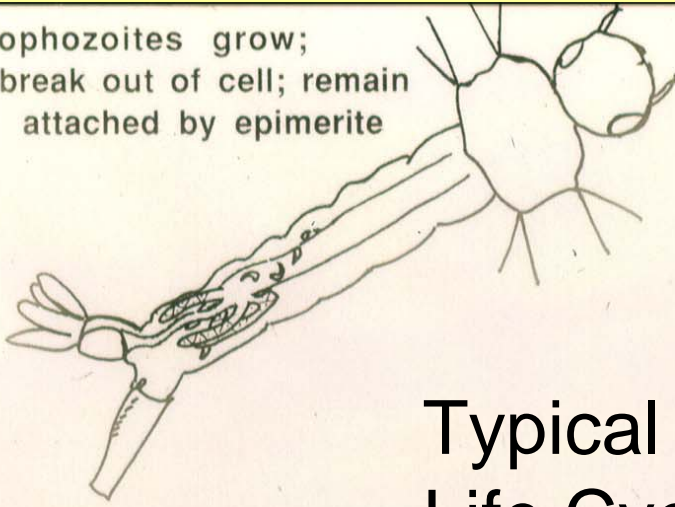
# Malaria Life Cycle

- Obligate endoparasite
- Host-specific

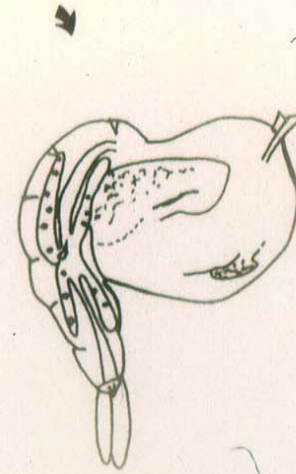
*An. quadrimaculatus*



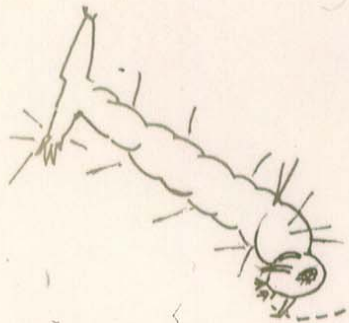
-3- Trophozoites grow;  
break out of cell; remain  
attached by epimerite



-4- Gamonts detach; migrate  
into malpighian tubule

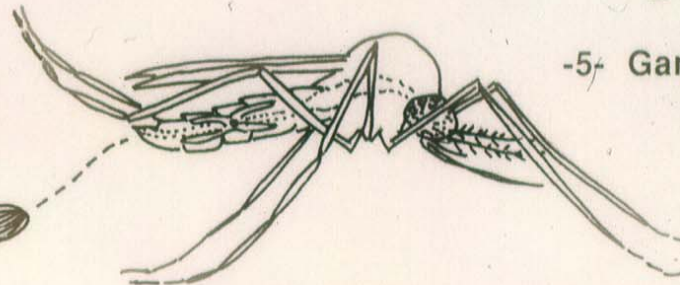


-2- Sporozoites released;  
enter epithelial cell



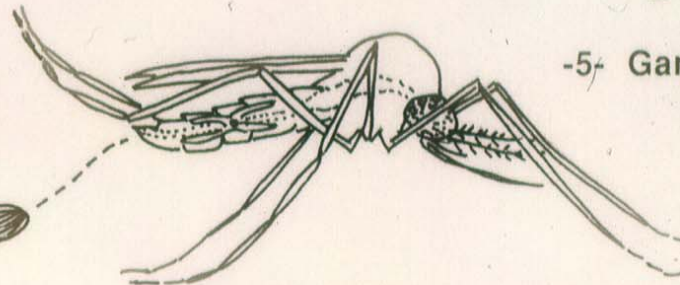
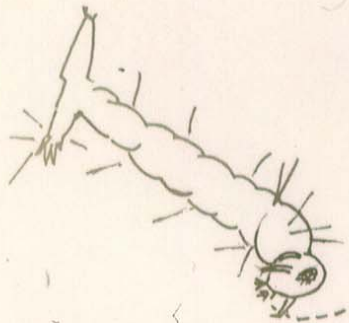
## Typical Gregarine Life Cycle

-5- Gamonts fuse to form  
Gametocyst (sexual  
reproduction)



-1- Oocysts ingested  
by larva

-6- Gametocysts rupture;  
oocysts released



*Ascogregarina barretti* x  
*Aedes triseriatus*

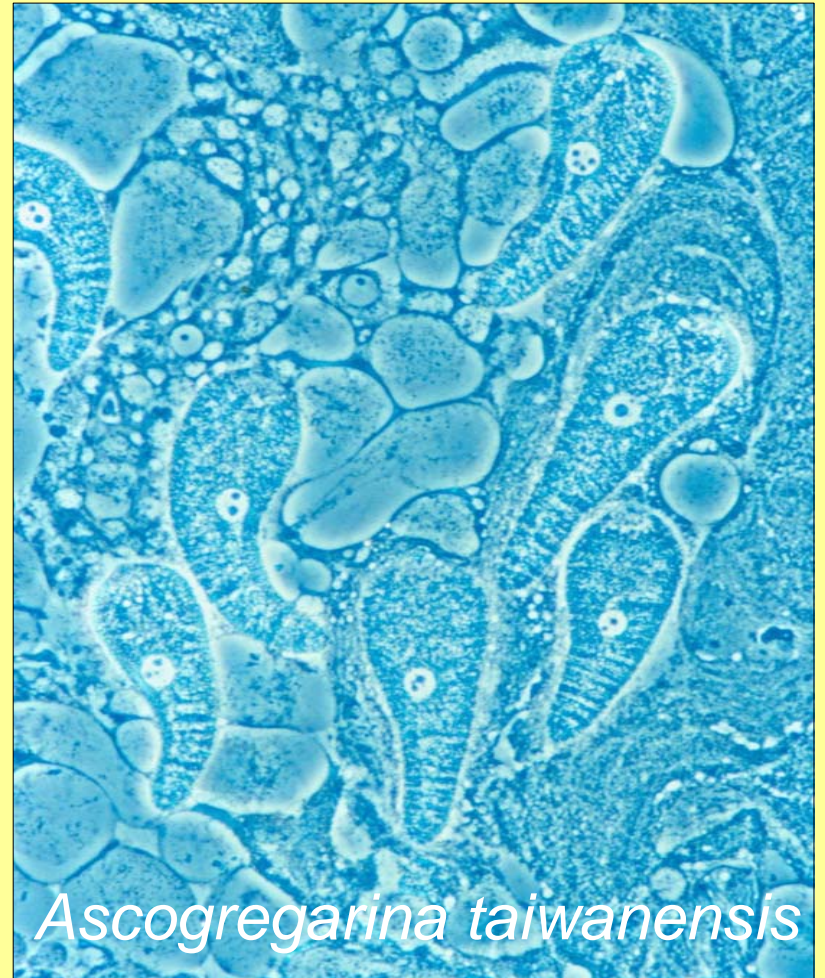


# Host-specific

*Aedes aegypti*



*Aedes albopictus*



# Effects on Hosts

- Minimal in usual host
- May be pathogenic in aberrant hosts
  - Slow growth
  - Mortality
  - Susceptibility to pesticides



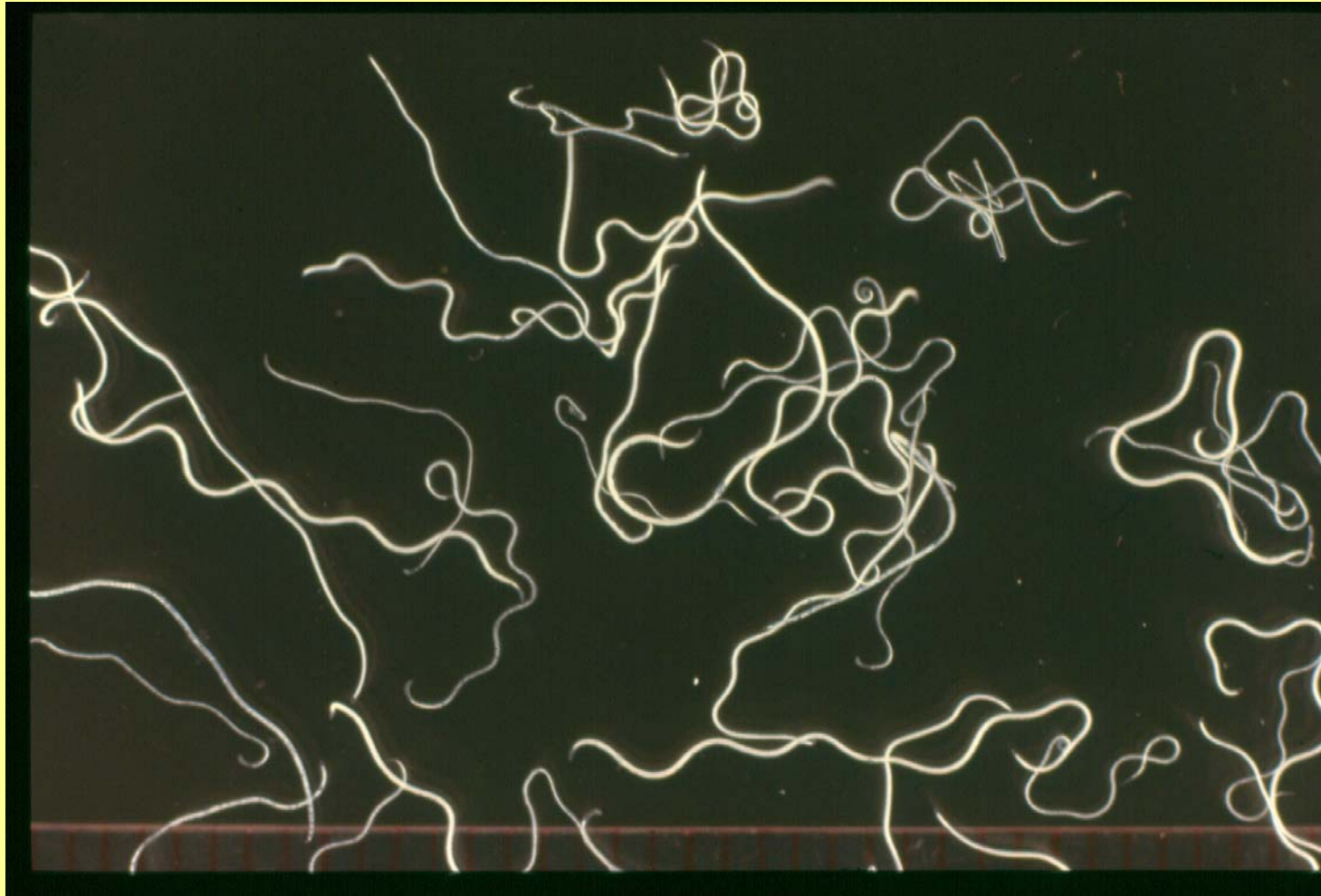
# *Aedes aegypti* vs. *Aedes albopictus*

- Prevalence high\*
  - 70% sites infested
  - >50% infected
  - Parasite load 1-486  
(means 33-50/host)

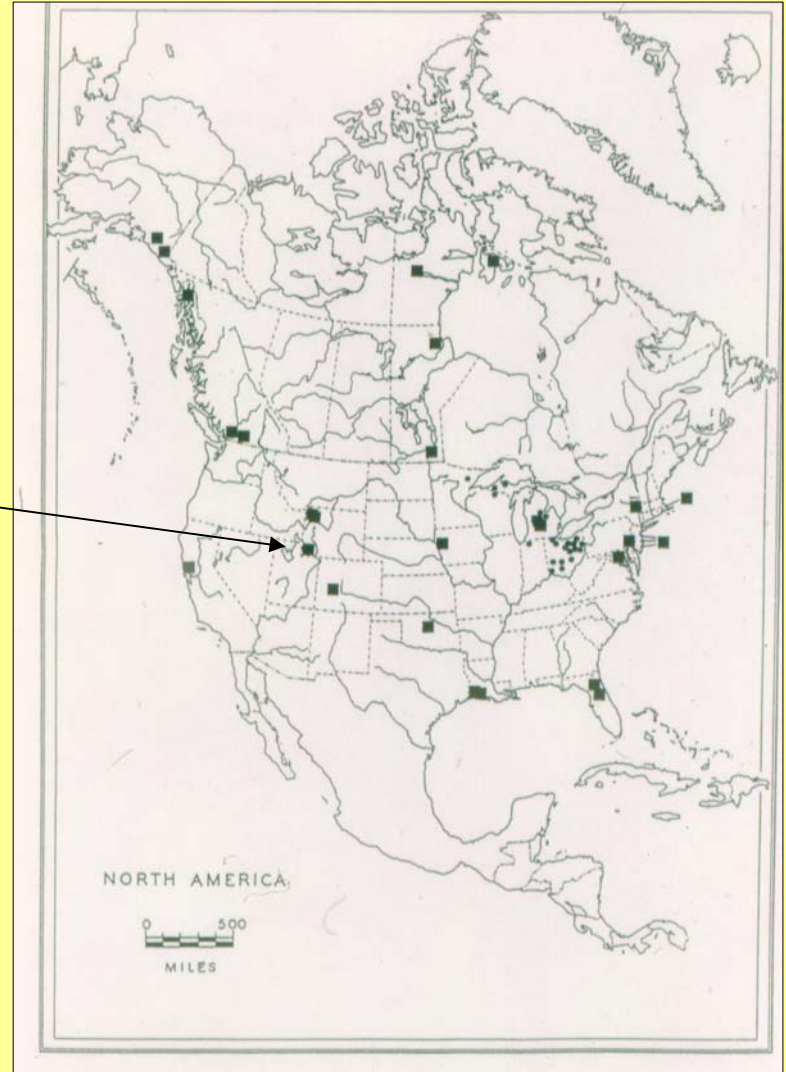


\*Blackmore et al. *J. Med. Entomol.* 32(6) 847-852 1995

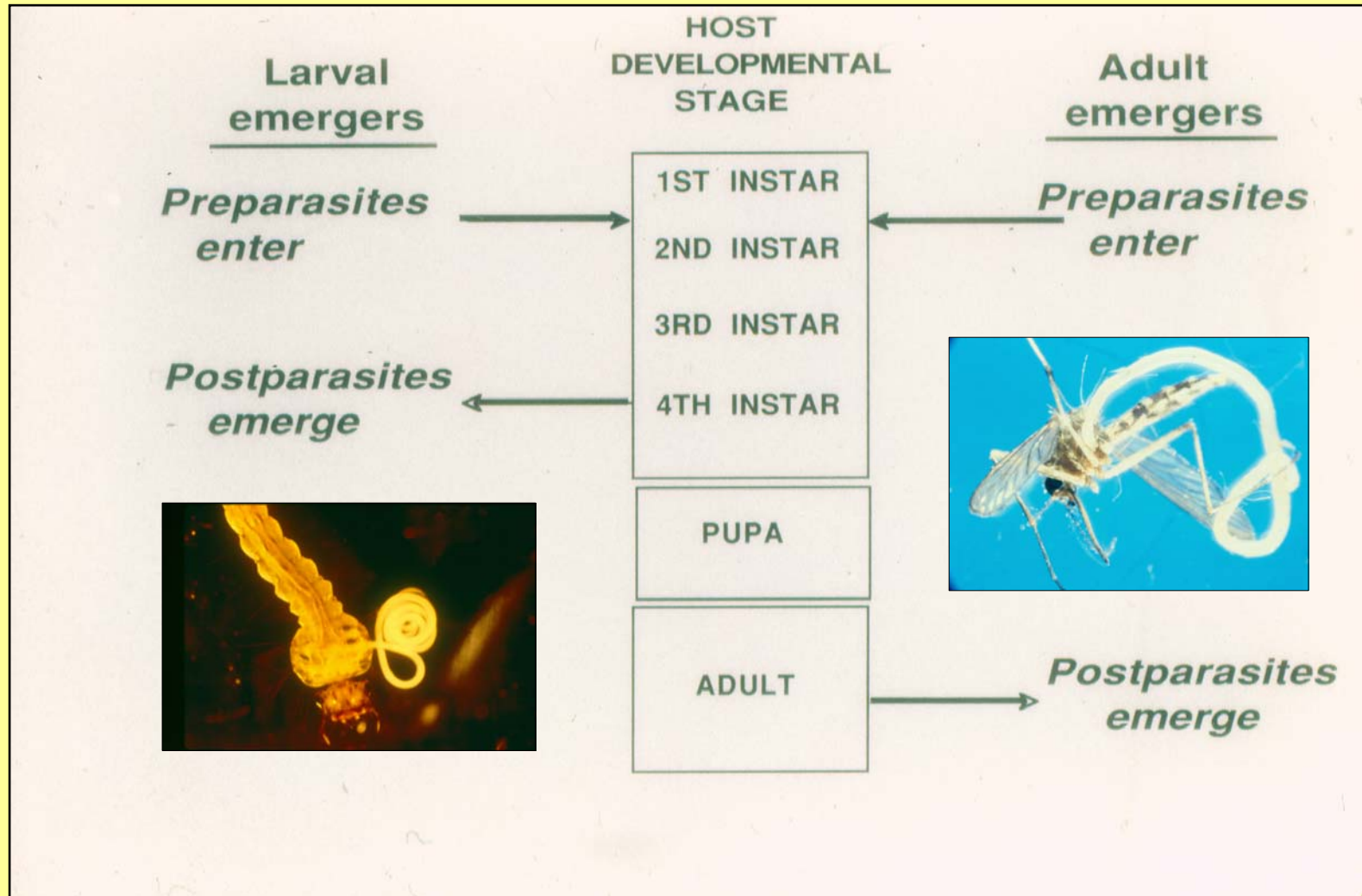
# Mosquito-parasitic Nematodes



# Mosquito-parasitic Mermithids in North America



# Life Cycles of Mosquito-parasitic Mermithidae

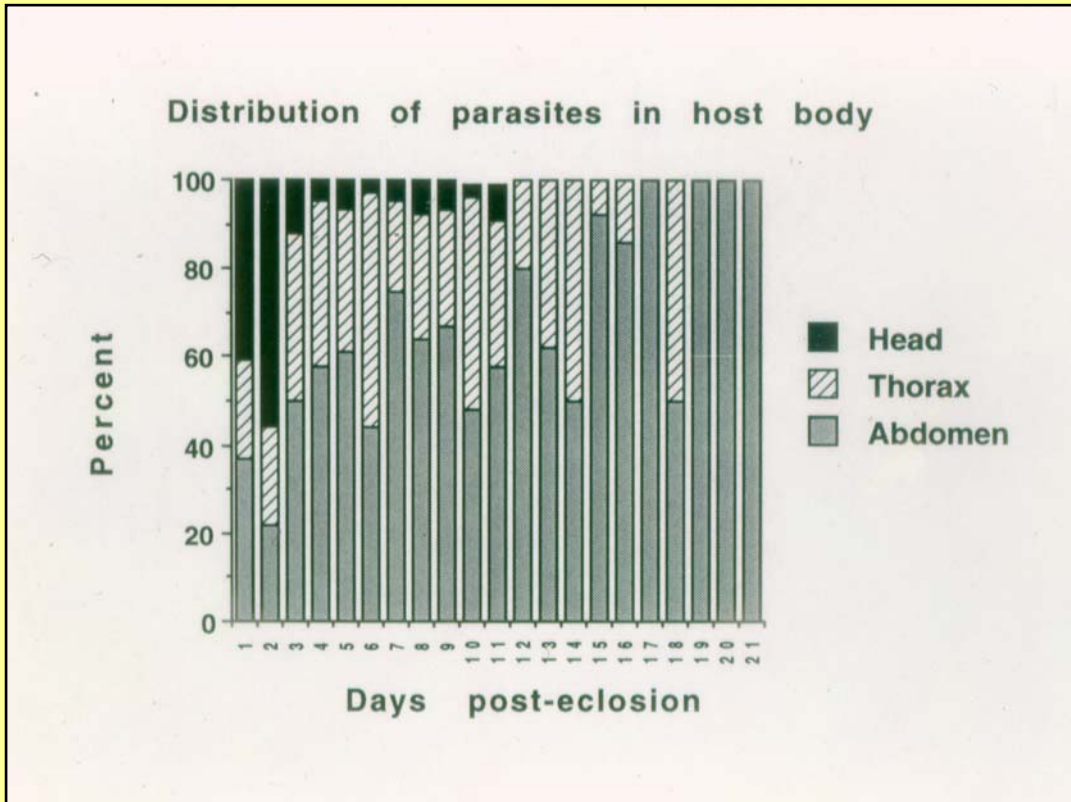


# Getting “Home”

- Behavioral effects
- Emerge at oviposition sites



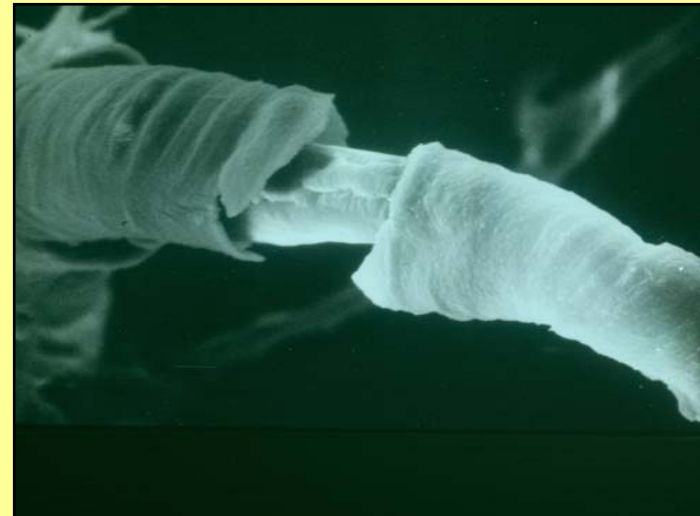
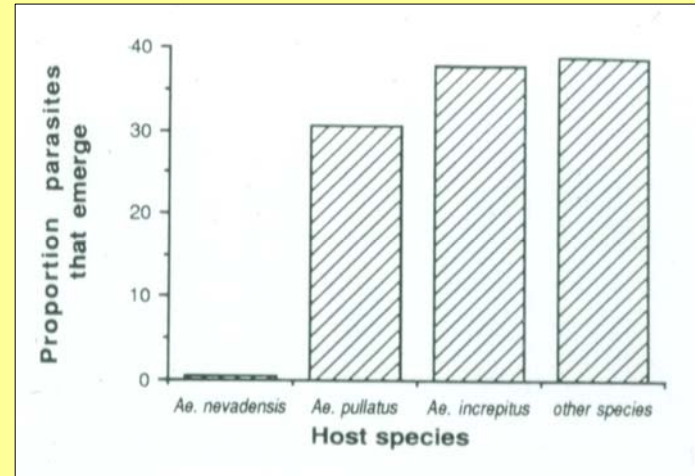
# Migration Within Host



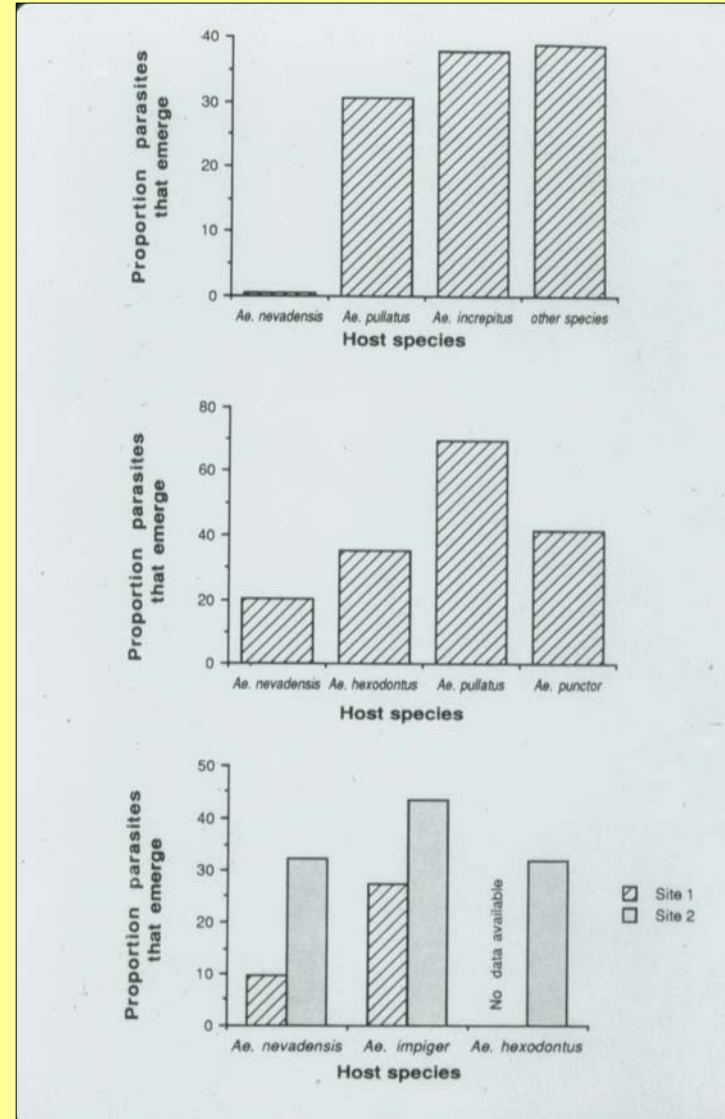


# Immune Response to Parasites

- Interspecific variation
- Parasite load
- Efficacy



# Host Choice Affects Survival



Weight · 500 Grams EPA Reg.No. 403-

Treats 250 Sq. Meters  
(Approx. 2,500 Sq. Feet)

## A Natural Parasite For Control Of Mosquito Larvae

FOR  
EXPERIMENTAL  
USE ONLY

# SKEETER DOOM.



Store  
in a  
Cool  
Place

### Ingredient Statement:

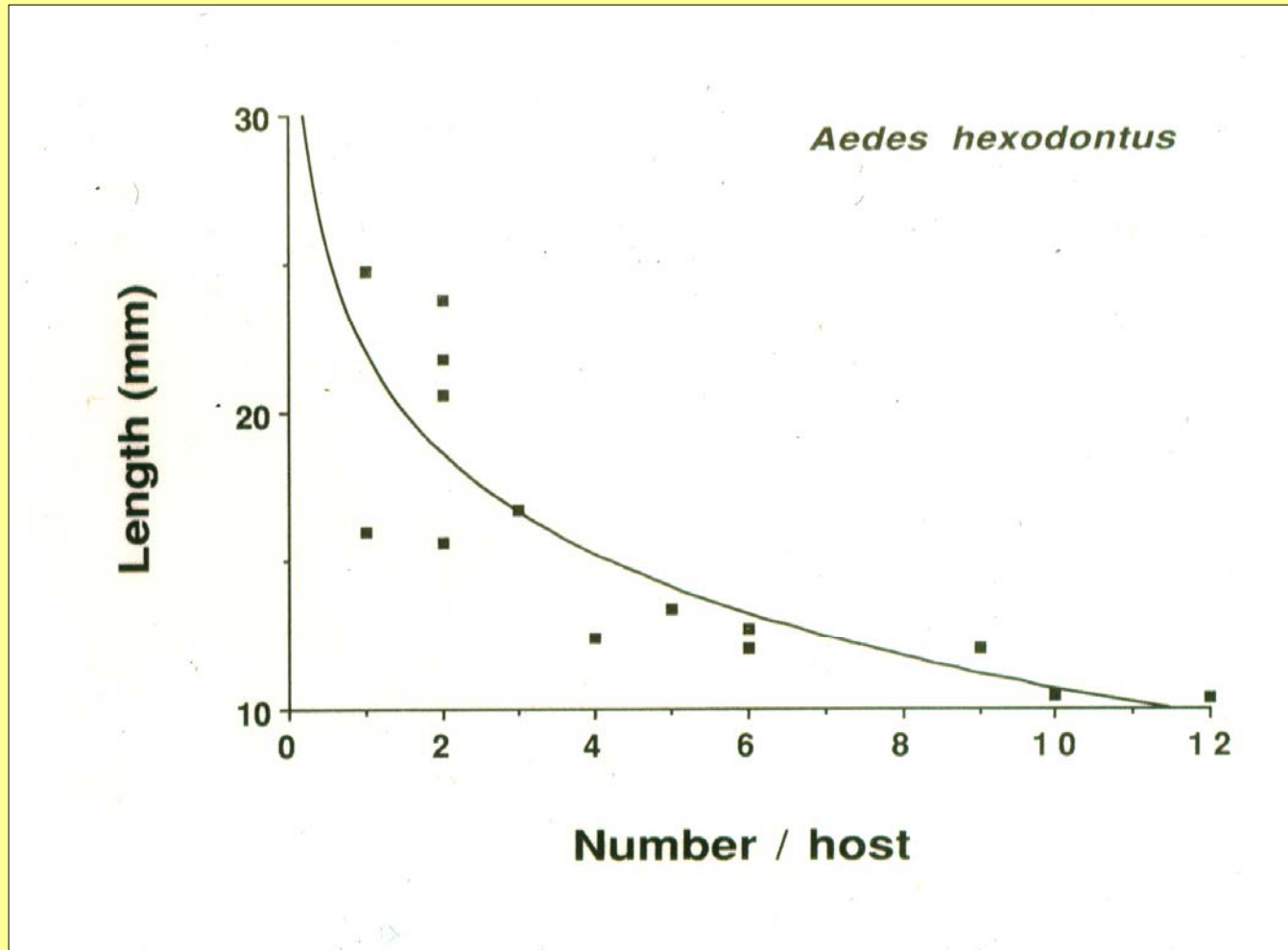
A mixed culture of not less than  
500 eggs, preparasites, or mature  
worms, of the mosquito parasite  
*Reesimermis nielseni* per gram of  
moist sterile sand.

DOOM



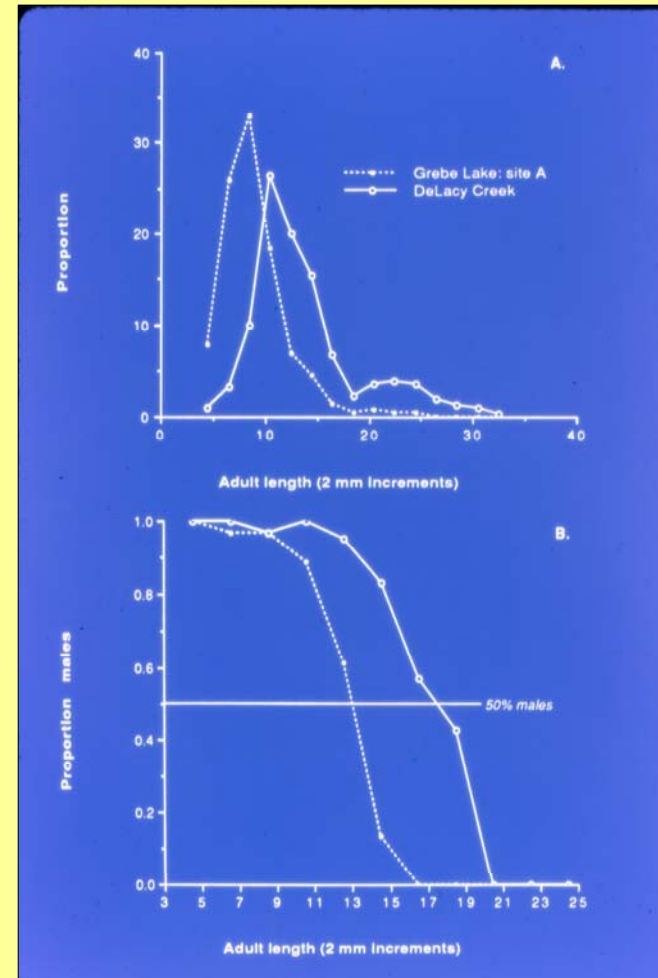
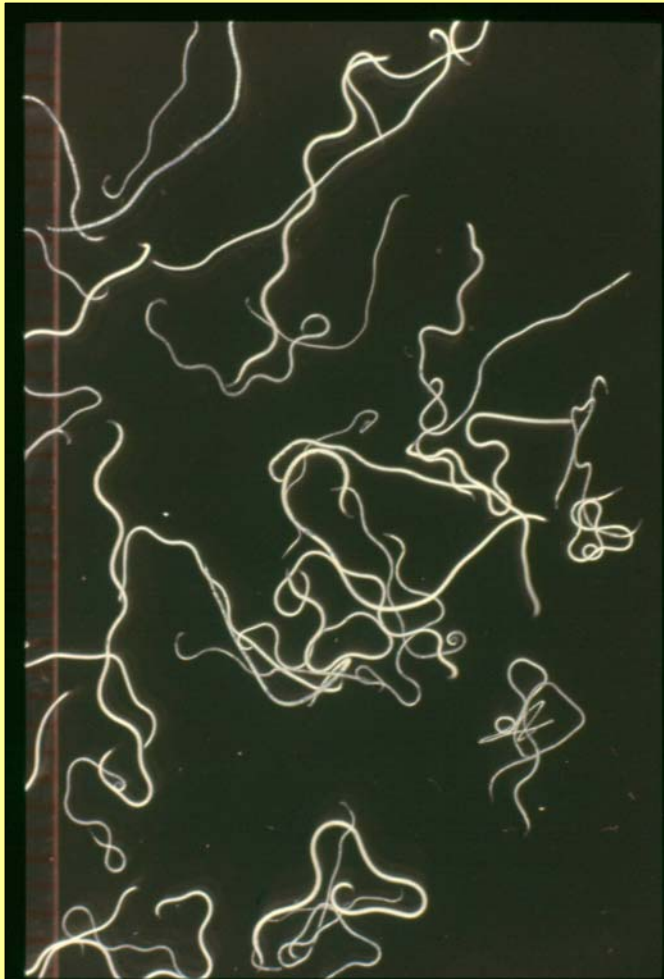
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# Host Effects on Parasites



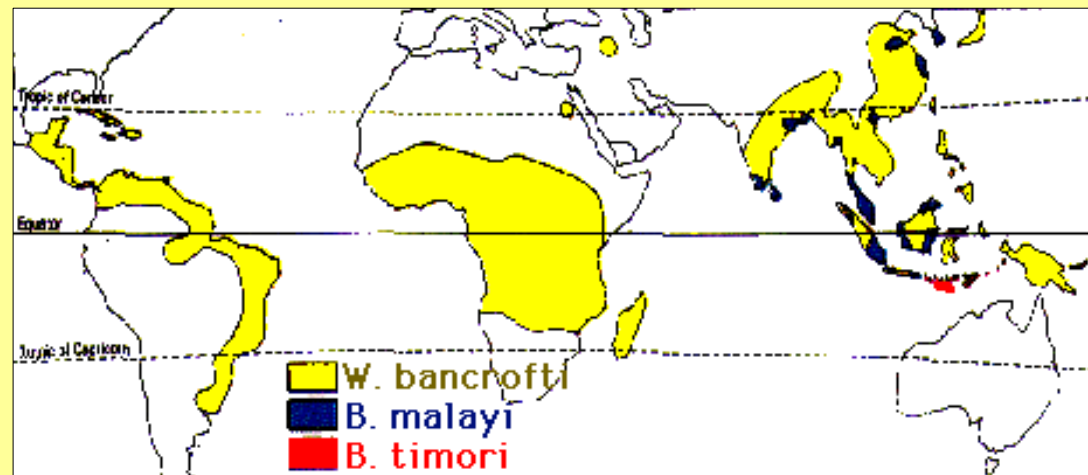
# Effects on Nematode Fitness

## ESD Sex-shift Point

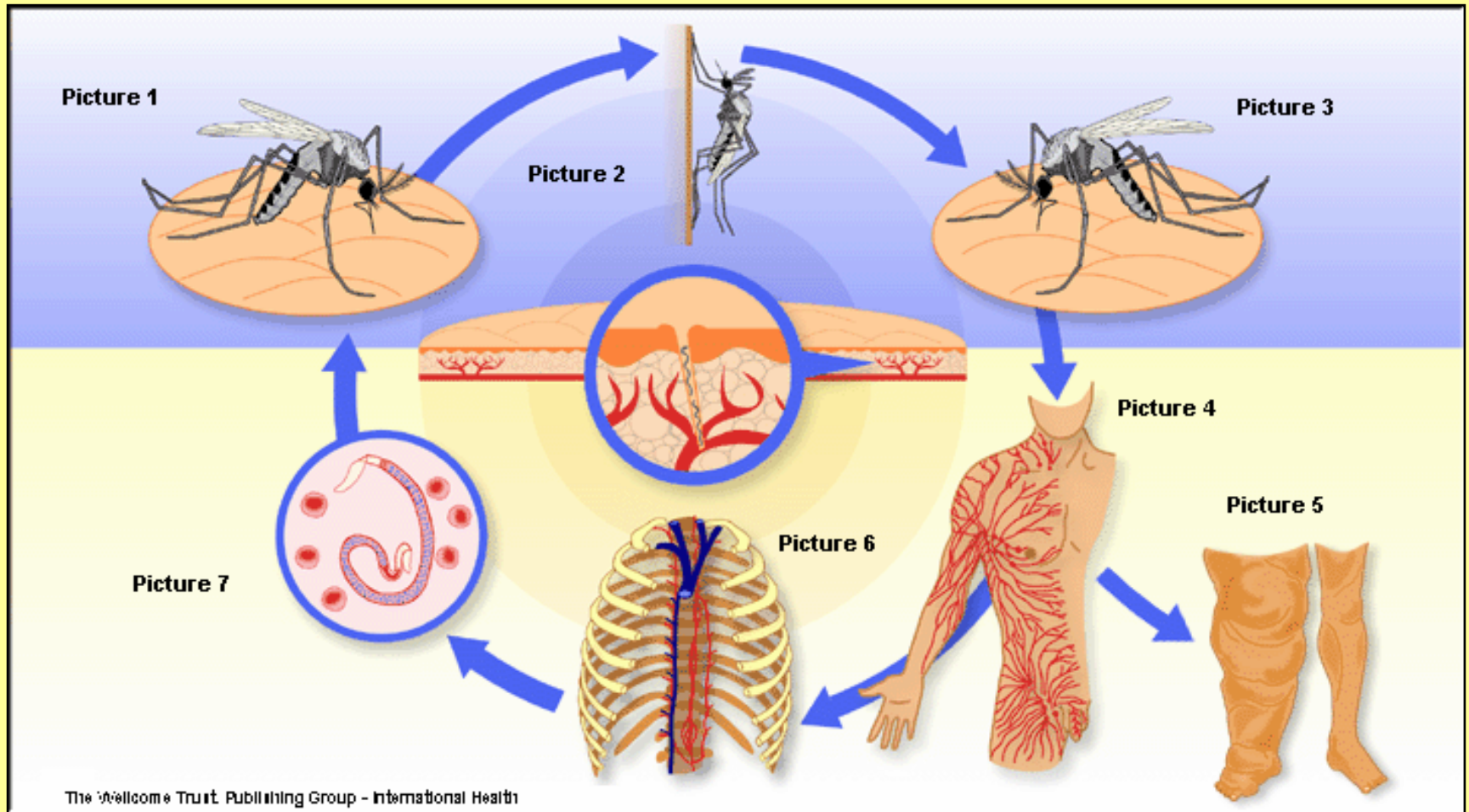


# Filarial Nematodes

- *Wuchereria bancrofti*
- *Brugia malayi*
- *Brugia timori*



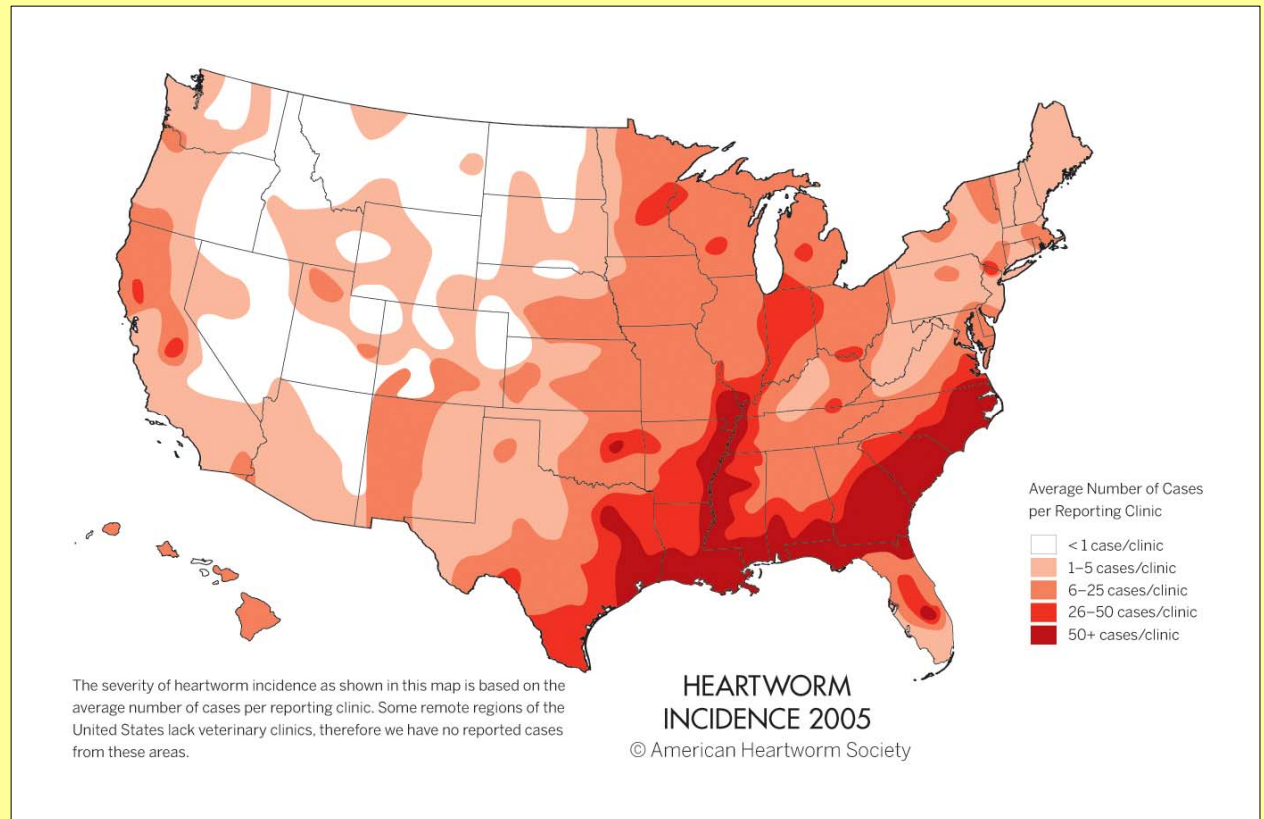
# Lymphatic Filariasis



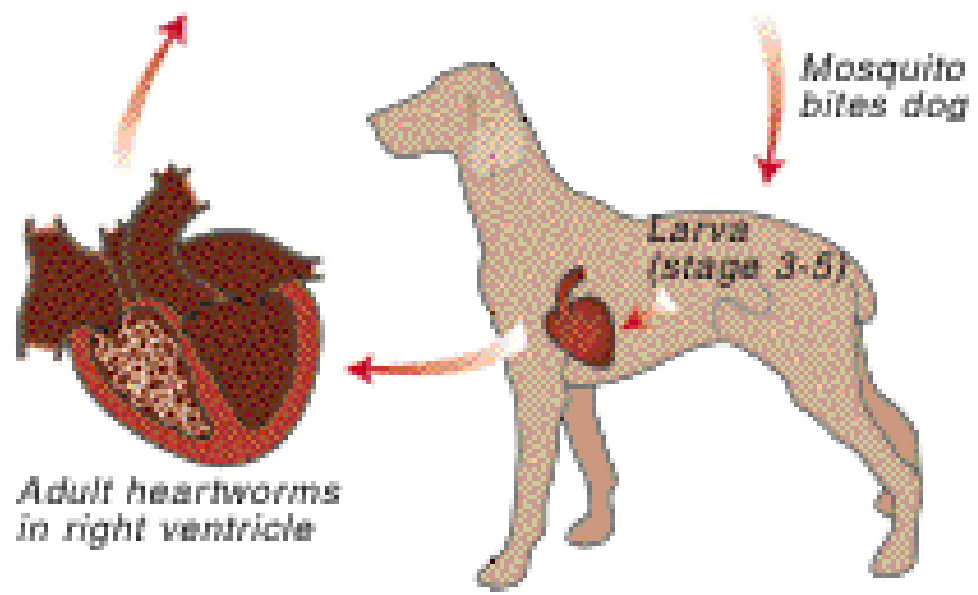
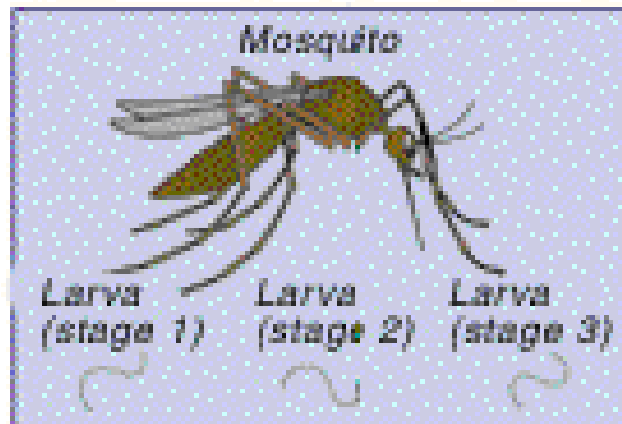
# Canine Heartworm

## *Dirofilaria immitis*

- Obligate parasite
- Host-specificity?
- Incidence



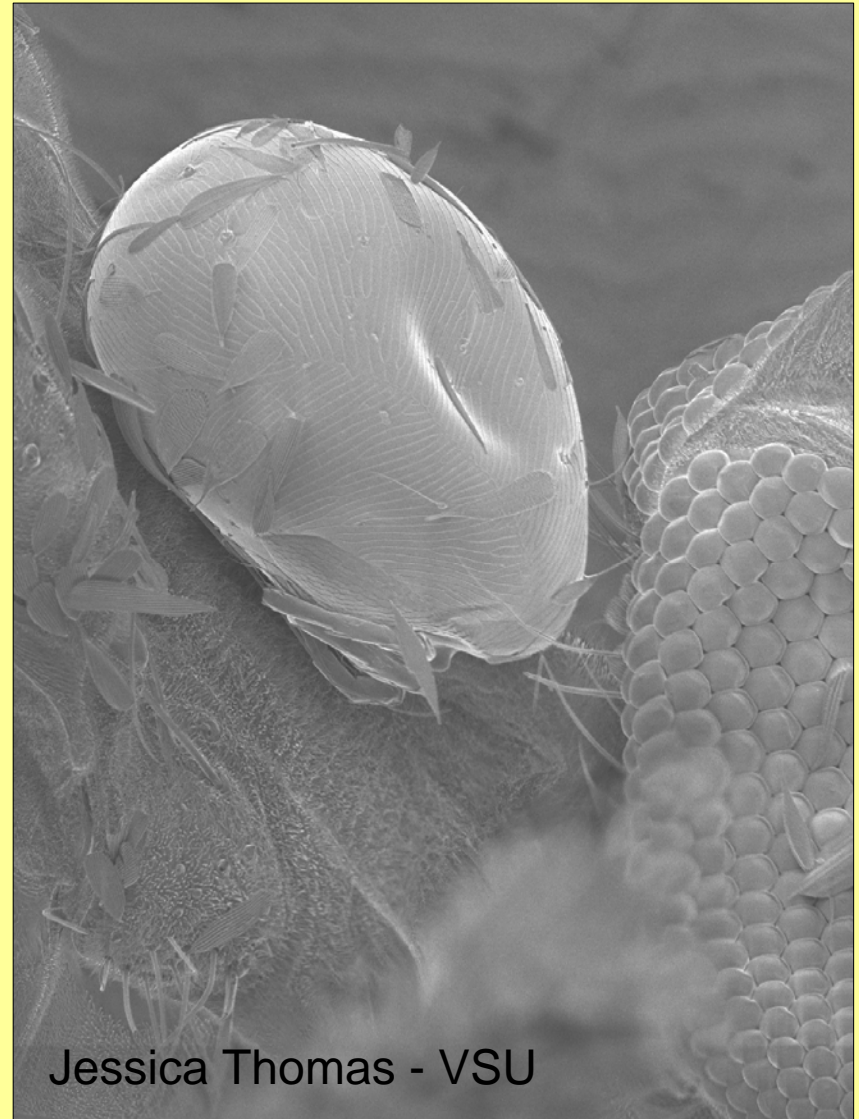




LIFE CYCLE OF THE HEARTWORM

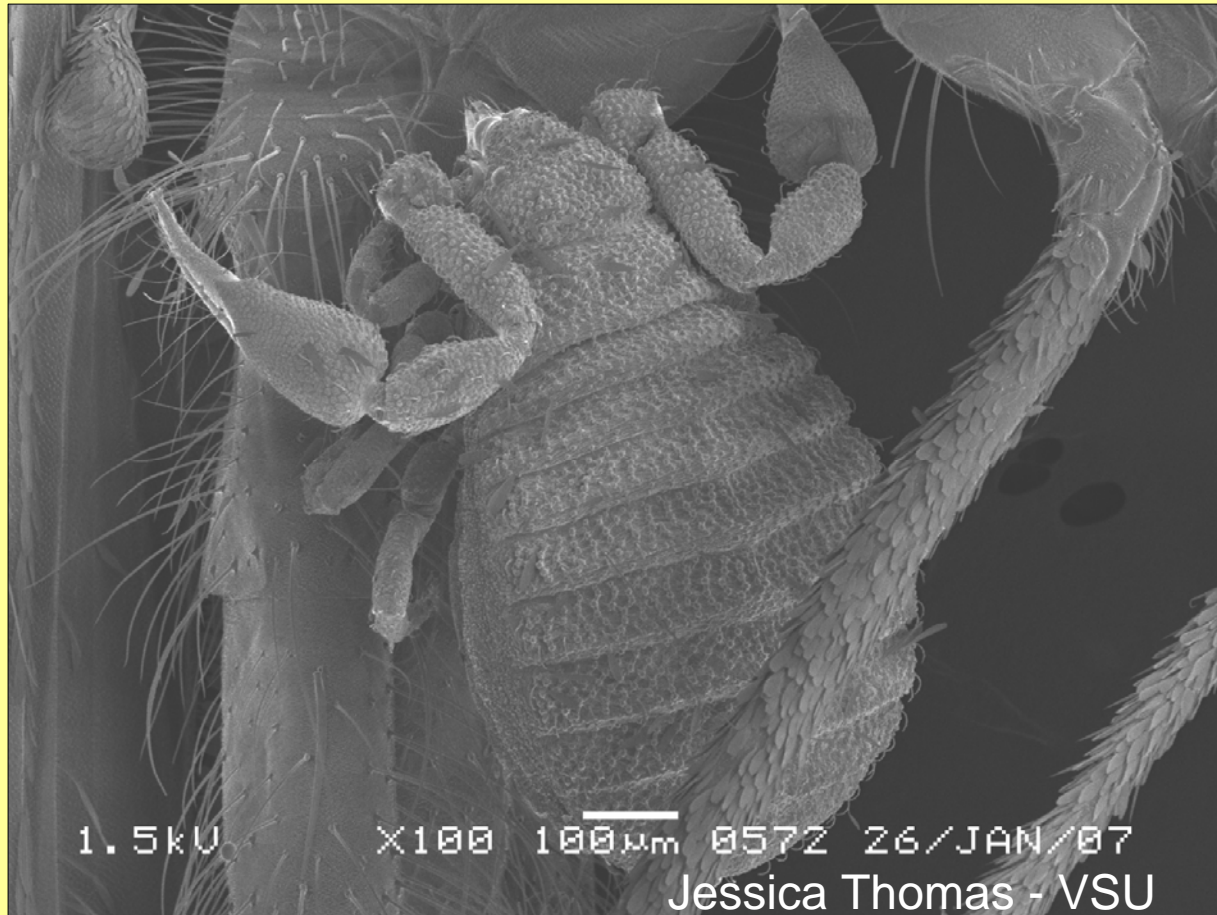
# Arrenurid Mites

- Ectoparasites
- Common on *Coquillettidia perturbans* & *Anopheles* spp. in southern Georgia



Jessica Thomas - VSU

# Pseudoscorpions: Phoresy or Parasitism?



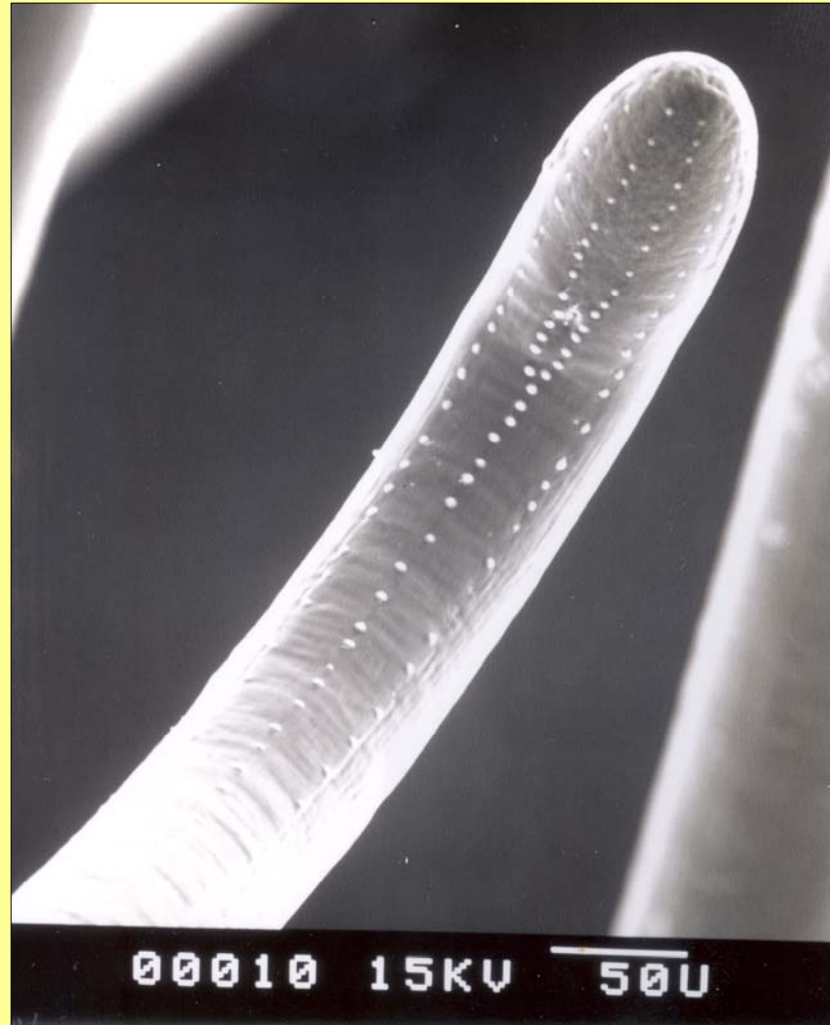
# Mosquito Parasites

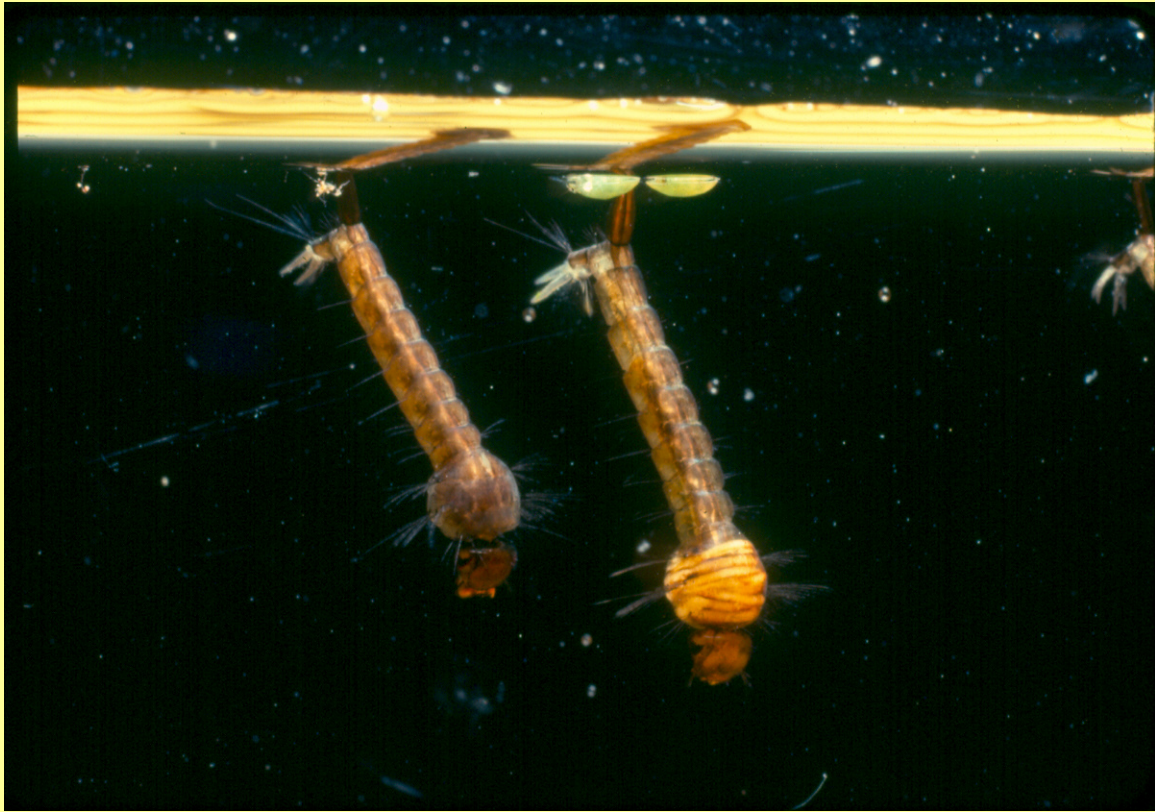
- Great fleas have little fleas upon their backs to bite 'em,  
And little fleas have lesser fleas, and so ad infinitum,  
And the great fleas themselves, in turn, have greater fleas to go on,  
While these again have greater still, and greater still, and so on.
- [Augustus De Morgan](#), *A Budget of Paradoxes*

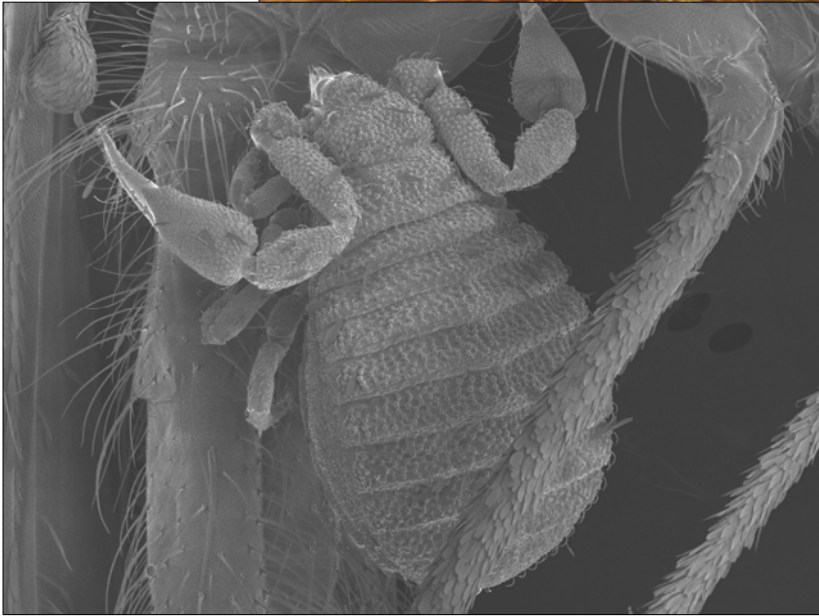
# The End



# The End

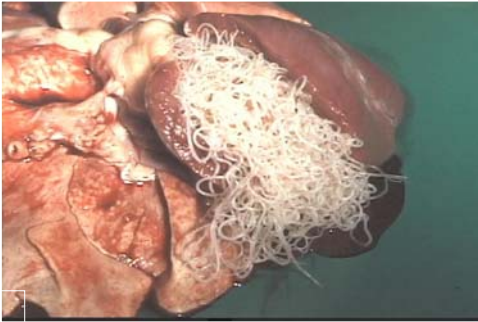








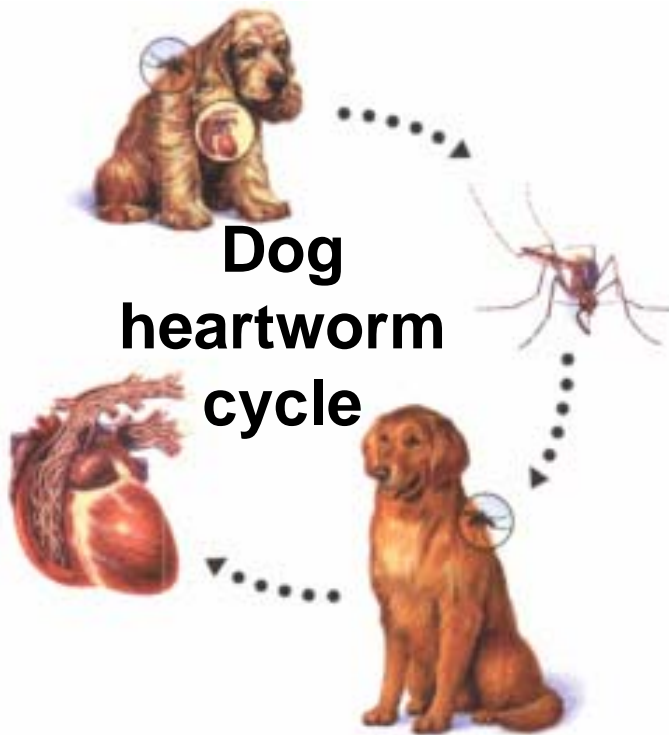
Adult worms



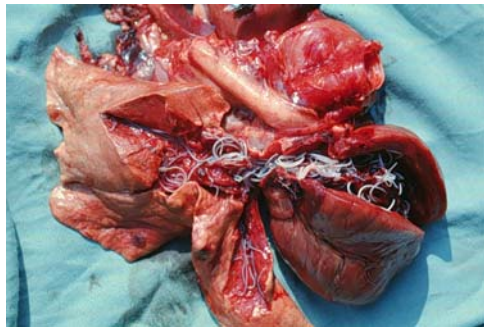
M  
Microfilariae from blood  
C



Dog  
heartworm  
cycle



L3 move to salivary gland



Migrate to heart – develop to adult

