

# External Ophthalmomyiasis By Oestrus Ovis

Dr Deeksha C.S.

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## ABSTRACT

Human myiasis has been reported from various regions in the world. We report a case of External ophthalmomyiasis in a 23 year old female in the last week of February 2021 in Davangere, presented with symptoms of foreign body sensation, redness and excess watering. Five larvae were removed from her left eye and sent for identification. The patient was lost to follow up.

**Key words:** Oestrus ovis, External ophthalmomyiasis, Davangere

## I. CASE REPORT

A 23 year old female presented to the outpatient department of ophthalmology in February 2021 with 1 day history of foreign body sensation, redness, excessive watering from her left eye. She was fine before that and there was no significant history of ocular or medical problems preceding this.

On examination, her visual acuity was 6/6 in both eyes. Eyelids of both eyes were normal. Conjunctiva was mildly congested with profuse lacrimation in the left eye, extraocular movements were full. On slit lamp examination of the left eye revealed hyperaemia of the bulbar and palpebral conjunctiva, quiet anterior chamber and clear cornea. There were multiple spindle shaped, mobile and translucent larvae (1-2mm) in the conjunctival fornix crawling and avoided the bright light of the slit lamp and tried to burrow deep into the conjunctival fornices. Examination of fundus did not reveal any intraocular larvae. The five larvae were removed with the help of forceps under topical anaesthesia. One of the larvae was mounted on a glass slide and sent to department of microbiology for identification. On microscopic examination revealed as the first instar stage larvae of oestrus ovis which is a viviparous dipteran on the basis of their spindle shaped skeleton with a pair of sharply curved furcous brown oral hooks at the anterior end as shown in the figure 1. The patient was put on topical ocupol eye drops. She was lost to follow up.



figure 1 Microscopic appearance of the larvae

## II. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

As per the literature incidence of external ophthalmomyiasis is rare in humans. Though *O. ovis* is the major causative fly involved in ophthalmomyiasis, other lesser common fly species include *Calliphora*, *Lucilla*, *Sarcophaga*, *Gasterophilus*, *Hypoderma*, *Musca*, *Callitroga*, *Cuterebra*, *Dermatobia*, *Chrysomya*, *Wohlfahrtia*, *Oedemagena*, and *Cochliomyia*(6). Man acts as an accidental fortuitous host, and in them, they hold on to mucus membrane through their pointed hooks but do not penetrate any more profound and remain confined to the conjunctiva(1). Though rare in India, this condition has been reported from North India and some places in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and some parts of Karnataka(7).

We, therefore, present this case to highlight the fact that larval conjunctivitis (external ophthalmomyiasis by *Oestrus ovis*) though a rare manifestation, can be one of the causes of unocular conjunctivitis, especially in the spring and summer

season and whose timely diagnosis and treatment will prevent complications.

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