Wound Myiasis in a Patient with Squamous Cell Carcinoma

FIGURE 1. Large ulcer on lower right leg.

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A 60-year-old, otherwise healthy, male farmer presented to the Dermatology Department with a large ulcer on his lower right leg. The lesion had started as a small papule 6 months before, which became eroded and transformed into a rather rapidly progressive ulcer. On careful inspection, numerous larvae

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FIGURE 2. Close-up showing numerous larvae within the wound.

were found moving within the wound (Fig. 1 and close-up view in Fig. 2; the larvae are indicated by arrows). The larvae were analyzed and found to be *Lucilia sericata* (the green bottle blowfly). The lesion was diagnosed histopathologically as squamous cell carcinoma. The myiasis was treated by submerging the wound in a dilute permanganate potassium solution.

Wound myiasis occurs when fly larvae infest open wounds. It has been a serious complication of war wounds in tropical areas, and is sometimes seen in neglected wounds in most parts of the world. Predisposing factors include poor socioeconomic conditions, extremes of age, mental retardation, psychiatric illness, alcoholism, diabetes, and vascular occlusive disease.

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