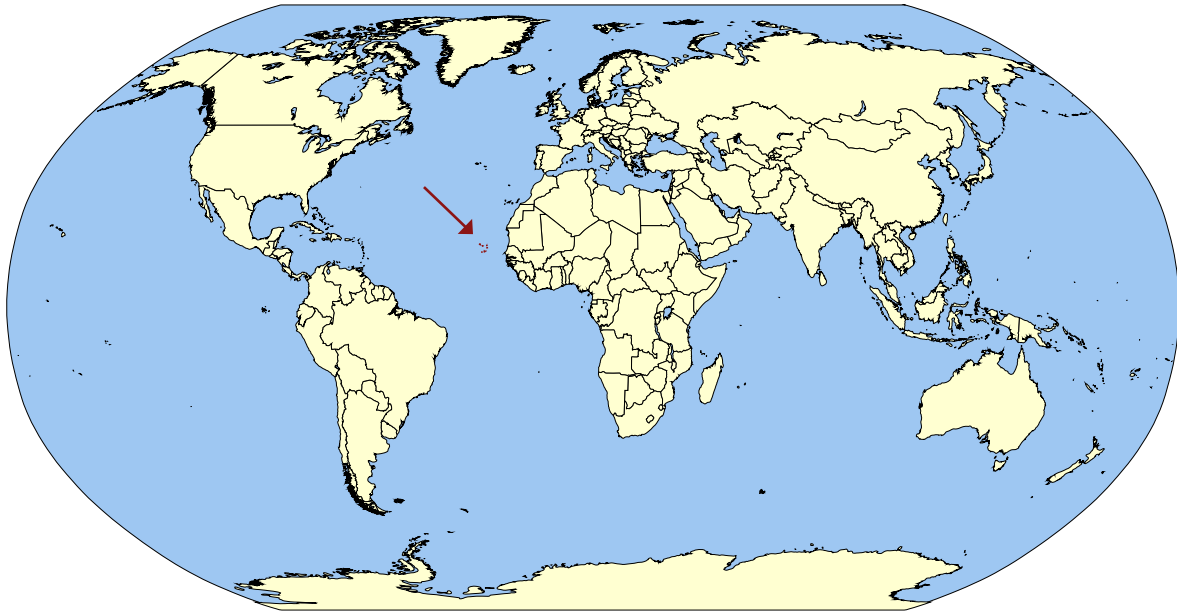


Cape Verde



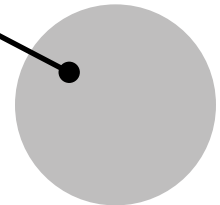
The History of Schistosomiasis in Cape Verde

To our knowledge, human schistosomiasis has never been endemic on the Cape Verde island archipelago -- the compatible intermediate host snails were simply never found on the islands [1, 2]. Thus, it is unclear why Cape Verde appears on some lists of human-schistosomiasis-endemic countries (albeit at low to 0 prevalence [3, 4]). Cape Verde, officially the Republic of Cabo Verde, is a chain of 10 volcanic islands off the western coast of Africa. It was uninhabited until the Portuguese colonized it in the 15th century as a shipping hub for the slave trade, and later for transatlantic shipping of other products [5]. Since independence in 1975, Cape Verde has maintained one of the most stable governments in the region [5].

A recent focus of bovine schistosomiasis was described from Cape Verde, when the parasites were found in the veins of cattle at slaughter on the islands [6]. The bovine parasite strain, which does not infect humans, was shown to be compatible with *Bulinus forskalii* snails from Cape Verde and the same species of snails from Mali [7].

Schistosomiasis in Cape Verde [4]

Schistosomiasis has never been endemic in Cape Verde. Intermediate host snails have never been found on the islands



Overview of Cape Verde [5]

- » Population in 2015: 545,993
- » Official Language: Portuguese
- » Capital: Praia
- » Parliamentary Republic
- » Percentage of Population with Access to Improved Drinking Water in 2015: 91.7%
- » Percentage of Population with Access to Improved Sanitation in 2015: 72.2%

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