In the Seychelles, an archipelago island nation in the Indian Ocean, schistosomiasis has never been endemic (1-3). There is an absence of a suitable snail intermediate host on the islands: Cowper (1953) reported that neither the snail host Bulinus forskali nor schistosomiasis had been recorded from the Seychelles by that time (4). In a later correspondence, Cowper (1954) asserted that the genus Bulinus and the tribe Pyrgophysa had never been found in the Seychelles (5), and Schwarz (1954) affirmed this, in his response to Cowper’s letter.

Although schistosomiasis is not present in the Seychelles, this country has had to manage other parasitic diseases, such as intestinal parasites, and has organized some control campaigns for these other important infections. For example, the Seychelles Intestinal Parasite Control Program initiated a campaign from 1992-1994 with the goals of

Schistosomiasis has never been endemic in Seychelles

Overview of Seychelles [5]

» Population in 2015: 92,430
» Official Language: Seychellois Creole, English and French
» Capital: Victoria
» Presidential Republic
» Percentage of Population with Access to Improved Drinking Water in 2015: 95.7%
» Percentage of Population with Access to Improved Sanitation in 2015: 98.4%
reducing morbidity and transmission of intestinal parasites. The program included training health providers and teachers, collecting baseline data, delivering chemotherapy, and carrying out health education. Overall the program was moderately successful and the cumulative prevalence of intestinal parasites (not schistosomiasis) in schoolchildren decreased from 60.5% to 33.8% by 1996 (6). The program enjoyed strong political commitment and community involvement, and it integrated well with the existing school and primary health care systems (6), demonstrating the potential for horizontal integration into existing systems for health delivery and parasite control (7).