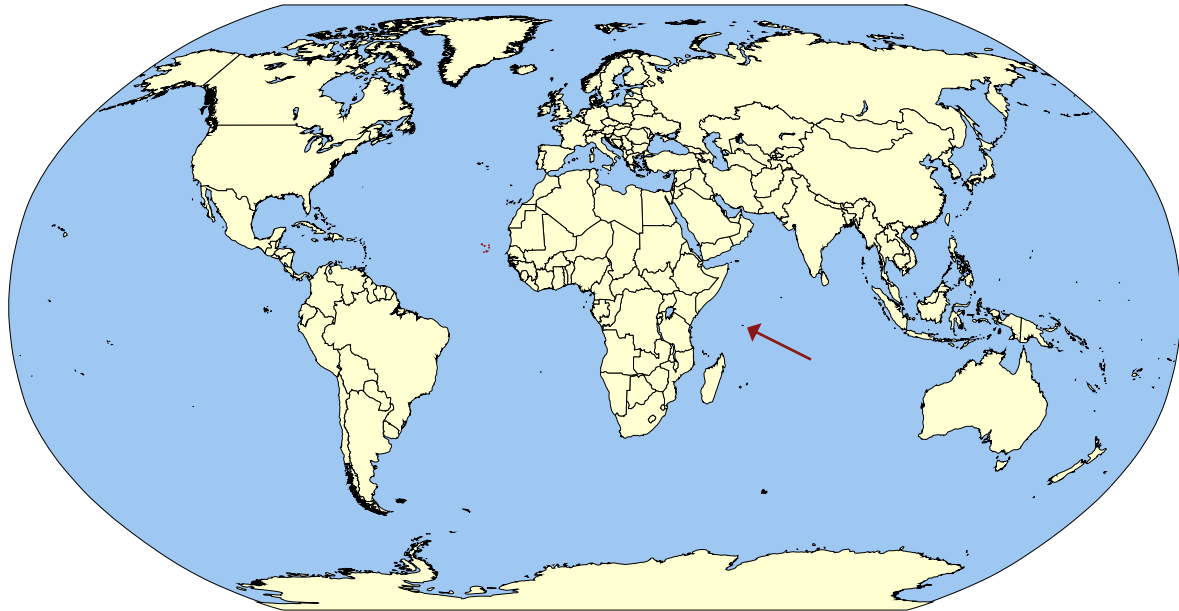


# Seychelles



## The History of Schistosomiasis in Seychelles

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.

## Parasitic Control in Seychelles

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 in Seychelles [1-3]

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%

## Parasitic Control Continued...

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).



## References

1. Cowper SG. Schistosomiasis in Mauritius. *Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*. 1953;47:564-79. PubMed PMID: 13113667.
2. Utzinger J, Raso G, Brooker S, De Savigny D, Tanner M, Ornberg N, et al. Schistosomiasis and neglected tropical diseases: towards integrated and sustainable control and a word of caution. *Parasitology*. 2009;136(13):1859-74. PubMed PMID: 19906318.
3. Rollinson D, Knopp S, Levitz S, Stothard JR, Tchuem Tchuenté LA, Garba A, et al. Time to set the agenda for schistosomiasis elimination. *Acta Tropica*. 2013;128:423-40. PubMed PMID: 22580511.
4. Cowper SG. Schistosomiasis in Mauritania. *Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*. 1953;47(6):564-79.
5. Cowper SG. Correspondence: On African schistosomiasis. *Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*. 1954;48(2):185-6.
6. Albonico M. Control of intestinal parasitic infections in Seychelles: a comprehensive and sustainable approach. *Bull WHO*. 1996;74(6):577-86.
7. Savioli L, Renganathan E, Montresor A, Davis A, Behbehani K. Control of schistosomiasis - A global picture. *Parasitology Today*. 1997;13(11):444-8. PubMed PMID: 15275147.
8. The World Factbook. 2013-14 [cited 2015; Available from: <https://http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>.