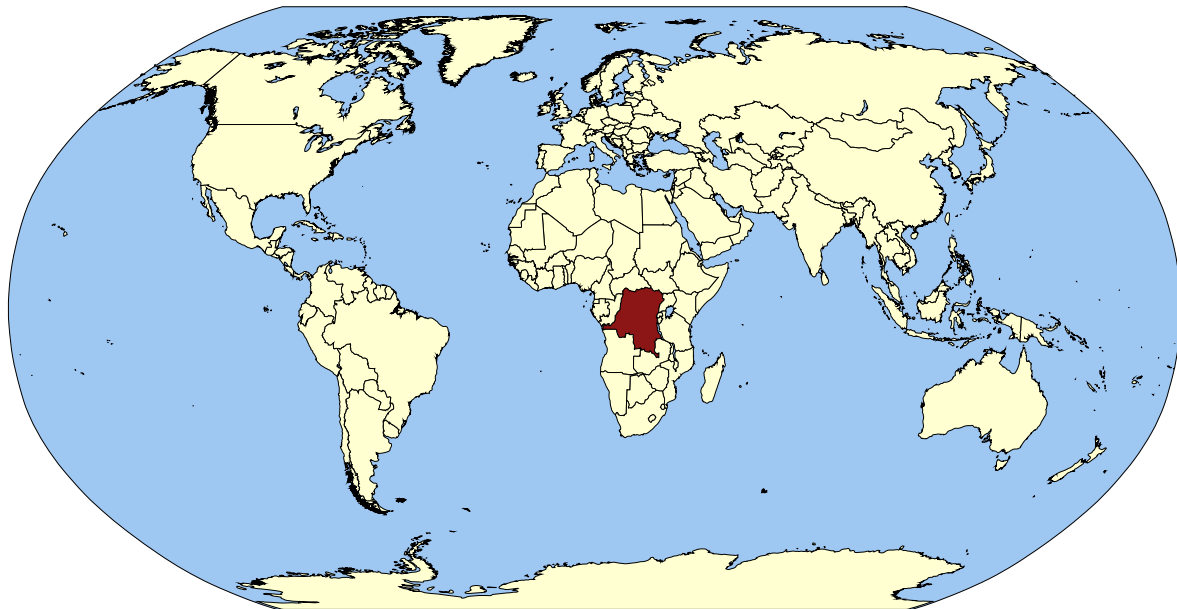


Democratic Republic of the Congo



The History of Schistosomiasis in DRC

Schistosomiasis is widespread throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), formerly Zaire, though no coordinated snail control efforts or chemotherapy programs have yet been administered.

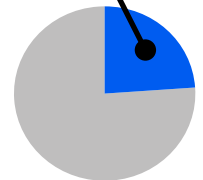
The DRC is one of the most biologically diverse nations in Africa with a huge wealth of natural resources [4]. However, a history of corruption, violence, and humanitarian crises has left the country with one of the lowest levels of human development in the world [5,6]. Civil wars since the late 1990's have directly and indirectly killed over 5.4 million people, 90% of the deaths from preventable diseases [4]. Sanitation and hygiene practices are poor, and contaminated drinking water is a consistent problem [6].

Schistosomiasis in DRC [8]

12% of the population that requires preventative chemotherapy has received treatment

24% of the population requires preventative chemotherapy for schistosomiasis

55% of the population that requires treatment are school aged children



Overview of DRC [7]

- » Population in 2015: 79,375,136
- » Official Language: French
- » Capital: Kinshasa
- » Semi-Presidential Republic
- » Percentage of Population with Access to Improved Drinking Water in 2015: 52.4%
- » Percentage of Population with Access to Improved Sanitation in 2015: 28.7%

Prevalence of Schistosomiasis in DRC

Endemic in all provinces except the Bandundu and Kasai-Oriental provinces in the southwest, *S. mansoni*, *S. haematobium*, and *S. intercalatum* have a total prevalence rate estimated near 27.8% in 2010 and 31.4% in 2012 [1,2]. *S. mansoni* is the predominant infective species with intermediate mollusk hosts identified as *Biomphalaria pfeifferi*, *Biomphalaria choanomphala*, *Biomphalaria smithi*, and *Biomphalaria Stanleyi*. *Bulinus globosus* and *Bulinus africanus* have been identified as viable intermediate hosts for *S. haematobium* and *S. intercalatum* [3].

Control of Schistosomiasis in DRC

The Schistosomiasis Control Initiative indicates that the DRC is a region of focus from 2010-2016, though no snail control or chemotherapy programs have been instituted [4]. This may be in light of the fact that violence and danger continue to plague the country, especially in the Eastern regions as conflict amongst rebel groups and the Armed Forces of the DRC have reignited in the past few years [6]. Schistosome and snail distribution mapping, as well as updated prevalence data, is needed.

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Schistosomiasis is widespread throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo though no coordinated snail control efforts or chemotherapy programs have yet been administered.