

## Abstract

Leishmaniasis belongs to the most important world human as well as animal diseases. It occurs in almost all continents. Its nearest area of occurrence from our point of view is the Mediterranean, including the states of North Africa. A significant portion of all registered cases occurs here and the prevalence has been increasing in last decades. Algeria is the second in the world in number of cases of cutaneous leishmaniasis and in the other countries the situation is quite similar. Two major forms of the disease occur in the region: visceral and cutaneous leishmaniasis. *Leishmania major* is the most abundant species in the are, followed by *L. infantum* and *L. tropica*. In the Old World, leishmanises are transmitted by sand flies of the genus *Phlebotomus*. The most important proven vectors are *Phlebotomus papatasi*, *P. sergenti*, *P. perfiliewi* or *P. perniciosus*. Rodents are considered to be main reservoir organisms (*Psammomys obesus*, *Meriones shawi*), together with dogs in which canine leishmaniasis may occur with clinical symptoms; at the same time they serve as reservoirs of the disease. This bachelor thesis summarizes occurrence of individual *Leishmania* species, clinical symptoms they cause in the hosts and their vectors in North Africa.

**Key words:** leishmaniasis, phlebotomus, North Africa, *Leishmania*, reservoir host