

Marion Bacon¹

Eastern Washington University
Cheney, Washington 99004

Chigger Infestation of Humans in Washington, Involving *Euschoengastia numerosa* (Acari: Trombiculidae)

Abstract

A specimen of *Euschoengastia numerosa* Wrenn and Loomis was collected in a human case of apparent trombiculid infestation in Spokane County, Washington. The species was previously unrecorded for the state.

On 18 April 1979, a married couple, students at Whitworth College, Spokane, Washington, reported to Dr. David Stangland at the College Medical Center. They had been hiking about 30 km north of Spokane (Spokane County). The torsoes and extremities of both patients had numerous small papules. These were slightly pruritic, each with a small pore, and some with orange-colored centers. An ointment was prescribed and lesions were much improved within 48 hours.

An arthropod specimen was removed from one of the papules and sent to Eastern Washington University for identification. It was subsequently determined by G. W. Krantz, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, as *Euschoengastia numerosa* Wrenn and Loomis, a species previously unrecorded from Washington.

In the United States, recognized cases of parasitization of humans by chigger mites have been rare outside the ranges of *Trombicula alfreddugesi* (Oudemans) and *T. splendens* Ewing. However, according to Easton and Krantz (1973), occasional infestations of humans and horses by *Euschoengastia* sp. have occurred in Oregon.

Literature Cited

Easton, E. R., and G. W. Krantz. 1973. A *Euschoengastia* species (Acari: Trombiculidae) of possible medical and veterinary importance in Oregon. *J. Med. Entomol.* 10:225-226.

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¹Present address: 107 Seventh Street, Cheney, Washington 99004.