

A PRELIMINARY EXPLORATION OF THE SOURCE OF INFECTION  
FOR DENGUE FEVER EPIDEMICS IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF  
CHINA

by

*Li Fu-shen, Yang Feng-rong, Song Jun-qi, Gao Hong, Tang Jia-quan, and  
Hu Ban-nong; Director: Professor Qiu Fu-xi, Institute of Epidemiology and  
Microbiology, China National Centre for Preventive Medicine, Beijing*

Dengue fever occurred in three outbreaks in the coastal areas of the Guangdong province of China between June 1978 and October 1980. With regard to the source of the infection for these epidemics, we have carried out preliminary investigations. During this period a large number of refugees coming from South-East Asia, where dengue fever was endemic, have resided in the coastal areas of Guangdong province. We have examined the anti-dengue virus antibody among the refugees by means of immunofluorescence what showed a positive rate reaching 9.5 per cent. At the same time, Guangdong, Guangxi and other provinces have received many travellers and merchants from various parts of the world, who might have imported the dengue virus. For example, the positive rate of this antibody among inhabitants in Kueilin city of Guangxi province, a famous sight-seeing scenic place, was 8.3 per cent, whereas this antibody was not detected among inhabitants in the control area which was not a residential area for refugees and not open to foreigners. Based on the above results, we are of the opinion that the source of infection for the dengue fever epidemics in China was imported.