

# VECTOR, TRANSMISSION AND PREVENTION OF LEISHMANIASIS

VECTOR in Sri Lanka: *Phlebotomus argentipes*



Resting Sandfly



Male

Female

*Phlebotomus argentipes*

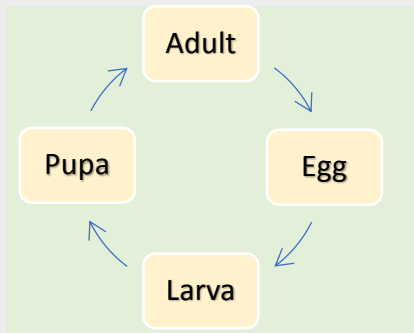
## Morphology:

- Small
- Light brown
- Long legs
- Hairy
- Lanceolate shaped wings raised in "V" shape while resting
- Show hopping movement

## Behavior and Habitat:

- More active from dusk to dawn
- Outdoor biters but can bite in day time being in dark indoors
- Prefers animals or humans for blood meals
- Distribution depends on geographical differences, abundance of vertebrate hosts, habitat availability and environmental factors such as rainfall and temperature
- Females lay eggs in soil rich in organic matter

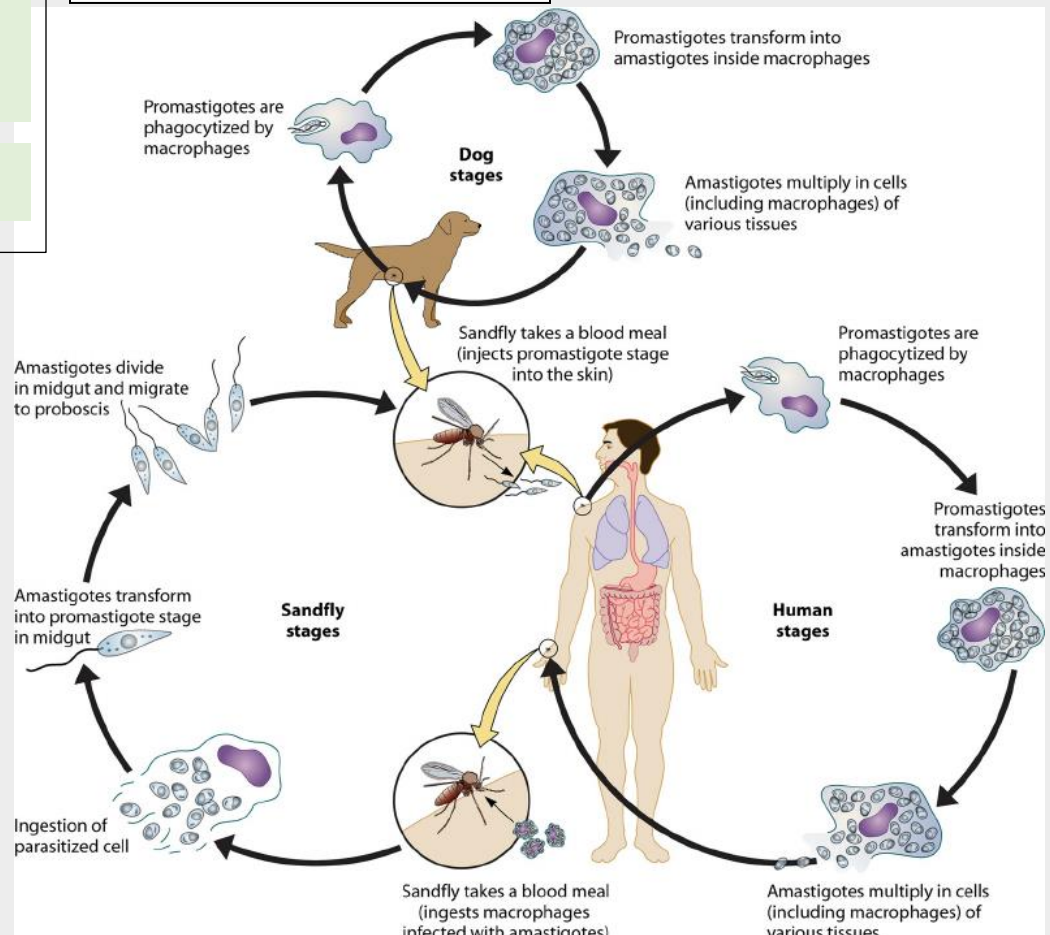
## Life Cycle:



Egg to adult takes about 4-8 weeks to complete

## HOSTS AND TRANSMISSION:

- Hosts – Mammals (Humans, Dogs, Cattles, rodents etc.)
- Reservoir - Dogs, Cattles and small mammals. Not clearly known in Sri Lanka.
- Transmission - Zoonotic or Anthroponotic
- Only female flies opt for blood meal



[https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-life-cycle-of-Leishmania-species-Sandflies-inject-infective-promastigotes-into-a\\_fig10\\_234087025](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-life-cycle-of-Leishmania-species-Sandflies-inject-infective-promastigotes-into-a_fig10_234087025)

## PREVENTION:

### Outdoor

- Avoid outdoor activities from dusk to dawn as much as possible
- Wear protective clothing (Long sleeves/Long pants)
- Use insect repellents (DEET, Citronella oil)

### Indoor

- Stay in well-screened or air-conditioned areas.
- Spray living/sleeping areas with an insecticides / Insect repellents / Fogging
- Use bed nets
- Moreover, Pyrethroid-containing insecticide impregnated bed nets, sheets, clothing, screens, curtains and also pet collars are in practice in several countries.