


# LEISHMANIASES: NEGLECTED DISEASES OF HUMANS AND ANIMALS

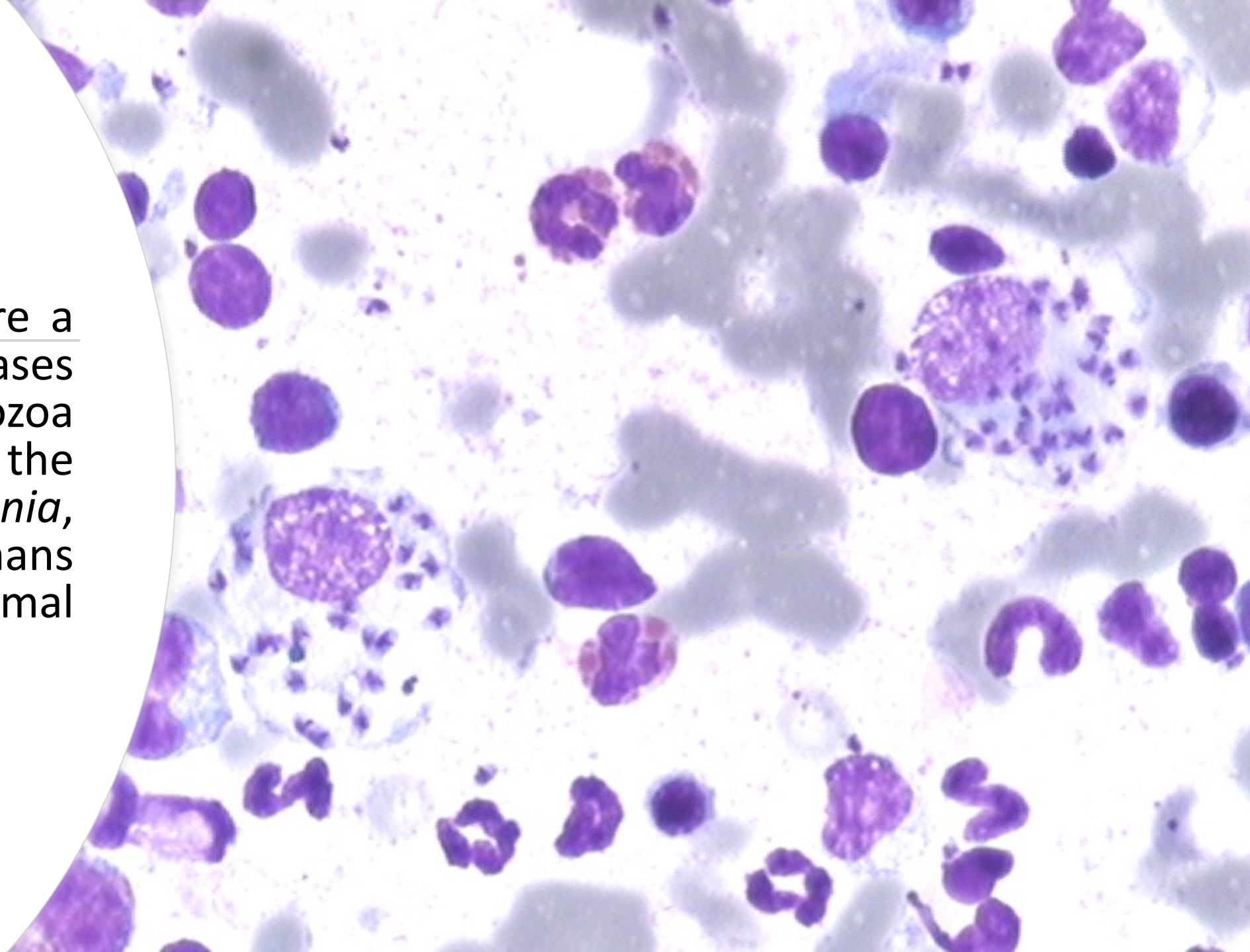


# Gaetano Oliva





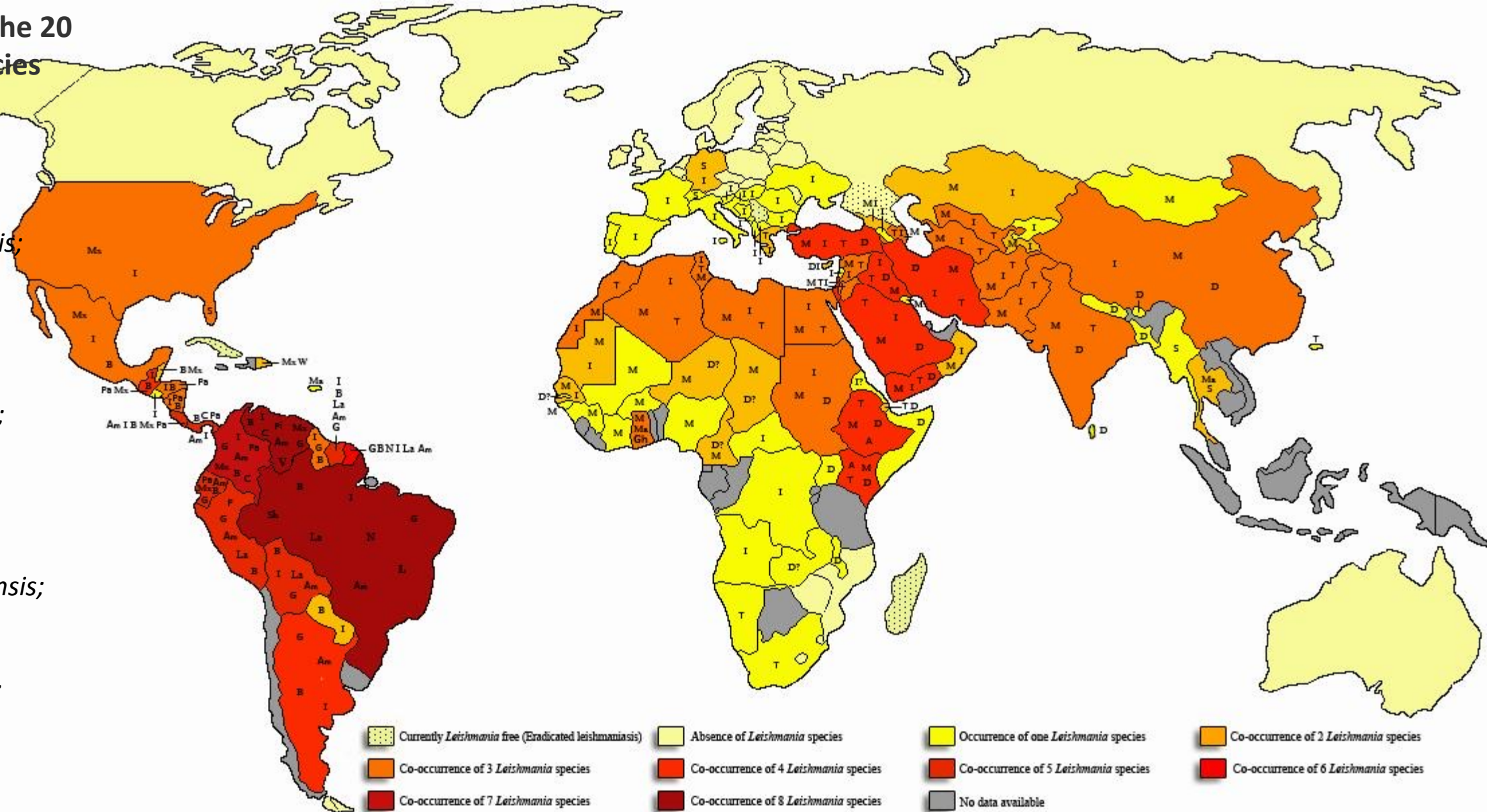
LEISHMANIASES are a group of diseases caused by protozoa belonging to the genus *Leishmania*, that affected humans and different animal species





# Distribution of the 20 Leishmania species pathogenic for humans

A: *L. aethiopica*;  
 Am: *L. amazonensis*;  
 B: *L. braziliensis*;  
 C: *L. colombiensis*;  
 D: *L. donovani*;  
 G: *L. guyanensis*;  
 Gh: 'Ghana strain';  
**I: *L. infantum***;  
 La: *L. lainsoni*;  
 L: *L. lindenbergi*;  
 M: *L. major*;  
 Ma: *L. martiniquensis*;  
 Mx: *L. mexicana*;  
 N: *L. naiffi*;  
 Pa: *L. panamensis*;  
 P: *L. peruviana*;  
 S: *L. 'siamensis'*;  
 Sh: *L. shawi*;  
 T: *L. tropica*;  
 V: *L. venezuelensis*;  
 W: *L. waltoni*



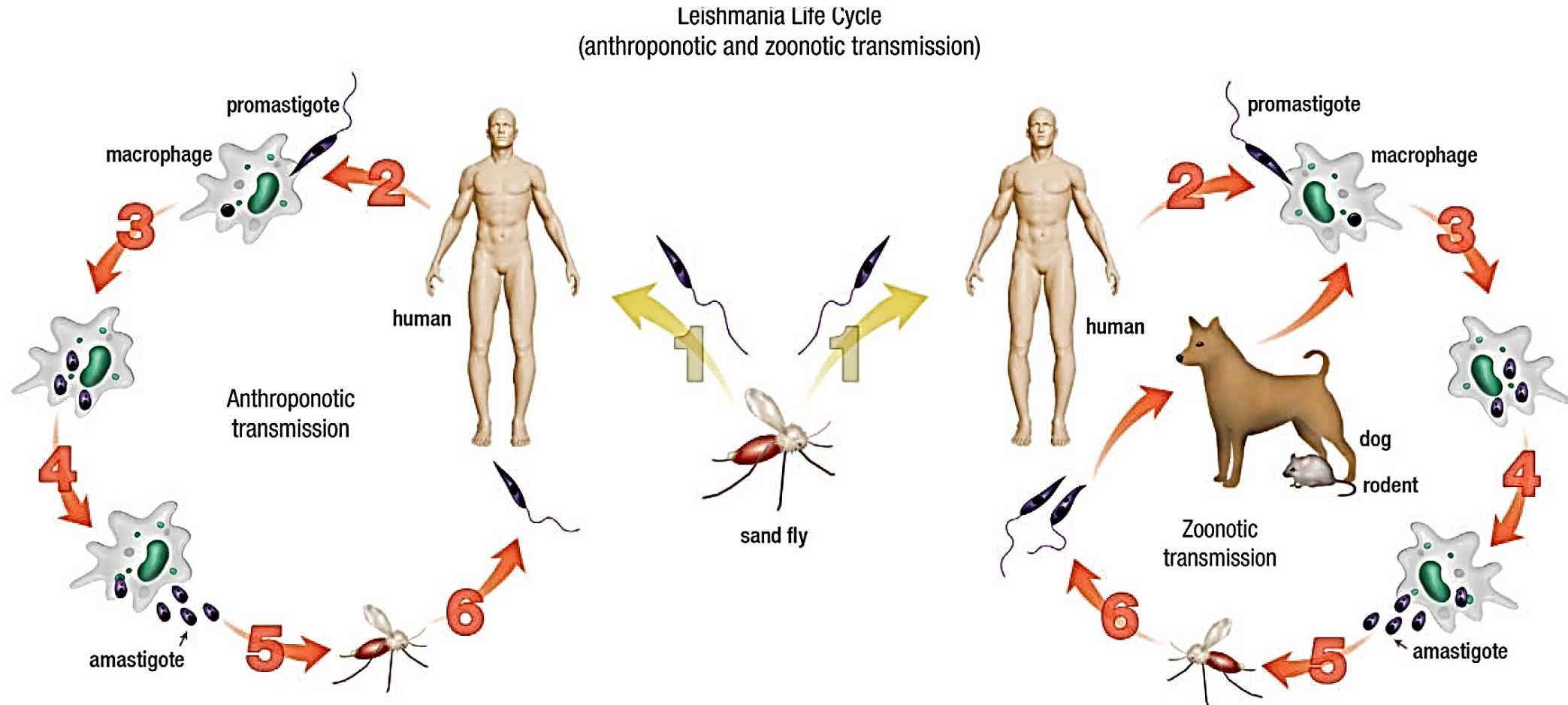
	Species	Clinical Manifestation	Reservoir Host	Country/Region
Eurasia (Old World)	<i>L. (L.) donovani</i>	AVL, PKDL, CL	Human	VL: West and Central Asia, China, The Indian subcontinent, The Mediterranean Basin, East Africa; CL: The Mediterranean Basin; ML: North Africa; PKDL: The Indian subcontinent, East and North Africa
	<i>L. (L.) infantum</i>	AVL, ZVL, CL	Human, Dog, Fox, Jackal, Badger, Rodent, Cat, Opossum	VL: Central and West Asia, China, The Mediterranean Basin, Africa; CL: The Mediterranean Basin, West Asia, China, West Africa
	<i>L. (L.) major</i>	ZCL	Rodent	West and Central Asia, The Indian subcontinent, The Mediterranean Basin, Africa
	<i>L. (L.) tropica</i>	ACL, ZCLAVL	Human, HyraxHuman	Central, South and West Asia, The Mediterranean Basin, East Africa
	<i>L. (L.) killicki</i>	CL	Unknown	West Asia
	<i>L. (L.) aethiopica</i>	ZCL, DCL, ML	Hyrax, Rodent	The Mediterranean Basin
	<i>L. (M.) orientalis</i>	CL, DL, VL	Unknown	CL: East Africa (Ethiopia and Kenya); ML: Ethiopia
	<i>L. (L.) infantum chagasi</i>	ZVL, CL	Dog, Cat, Fox, Opossum	Thailand
	<i>L. (L.) mexicana</i>	ZCL, MCL, DCL	Rodent, Opossum	South and Central America, Mexico
	<i>L. (L.) pifanol</i>	DCL	Unknown	Americas
Americas (New World)	<i>L. (L.) venezuelensis</i>	CL	Unknown	Venezuela
	<i>L. (L.) garnhami</i>	ZCL	Unknown	Venezuela
	<i>L. (L.) amazonensis</i>	ZCL, DCL, CL	Rodent	Central America, Venezuela
	<i>L. (V.) braziliensis</i>	ZCL, MCL, DL	Dog, Horse, Donkey, Mule, Rodent, Opossum	South America
	<i>L. (L.) waltoni</i>	DCL	Unknown	South and Central America, Mexico
	<i>L. (V.) guyanensis</i>	ZCL, MCL	Sloth, Anteater, Opossum	Dominican Republic
	<i>L. (V.) panamensis</i>	ZCL, MCL	Dog, Sloth, Opossum, Tamandua	South America
	<i>L. (V.) shawi</i>	ZCL	Sloth, Primate	South and Central America
	<i>L. (V.) naiffi</i>	ZCL	Armadillo	Brazil
	<i>L. (V.) lainsoni</i>	ZCL	Rodent	Brazil, French Guiana
	<i>L. (V.) lindenbergi</i>	ZCL	Unknown	South America
	<i>L. (V.) peruviana</i>	ZCL, MCL	Dog, Opossum, Rodent	Brazil
	<i>L. (M.) martiniquensis</i>	CL	Unknown	Peru
	<i>Endotrypanum colombiense</i>	ZCL	Sloth	French Guiana
				Colombia, Venezuela, Panama

ACL, anthroponotic cutaneous leishmaniasis; AVL, anthroponotic visceral leishmaniasis; CL, cutaneous leishmaniasis; DL, disseminated cutaneous leishmaniasis; DCL, diffuse (anergic) cutaneous leishmaniasis; MCL, mucocutaneous leishmaniasis; ML, mucosal leishmaniasis; PKDL, post-kala-azar dermal leishmaniasis; VL, visceral leishmaniasis; ZCL, zoonotic cutaneous leishmaniasis; ZVL, zoonotic visceral leishmaniasis.

Hong A. et al., 2020



# *Leishmania* life cycle (Kumar and Engwerda, 2014)



Healthy infected as reservoirs

Both infected and sick dogs are considered the main domestic animal reservoirs for *Leishmania infantum* parasite



# Clinical manifestations of Leishmaniases

## Humans

- **Visceral leishmaniasis (VL)**
- Localized Leishmanial Lymphadenopathy
- Post-Kala-Azar dermal leishmaniasis (PKDL)
- **Cutaneous leishmaniasis (CL)**
- Diffuse and Disseminated CL
- **Mucocutaneous leishmaniasis (MCL)**
- Localized mucosal leishmaniasis
- Diffuse mucosal leishmaniasis

## Domestic animals (dog and **cat**)

- **Generalized leishmaniasis (ZVL)**
- **Cutaneous form(s)**
- Localized mucosal/mucocutaneous form(s)

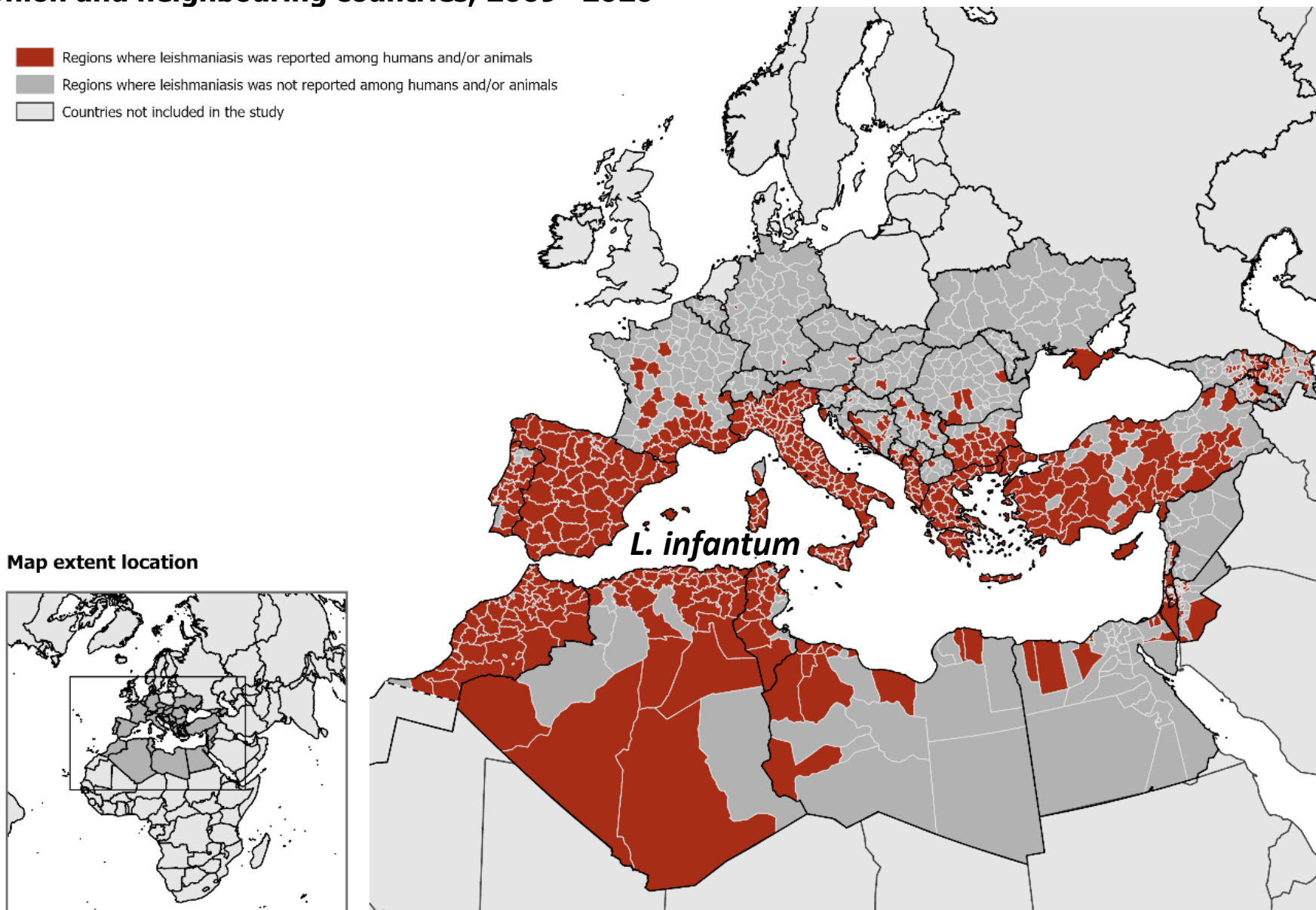


*L. infantum*



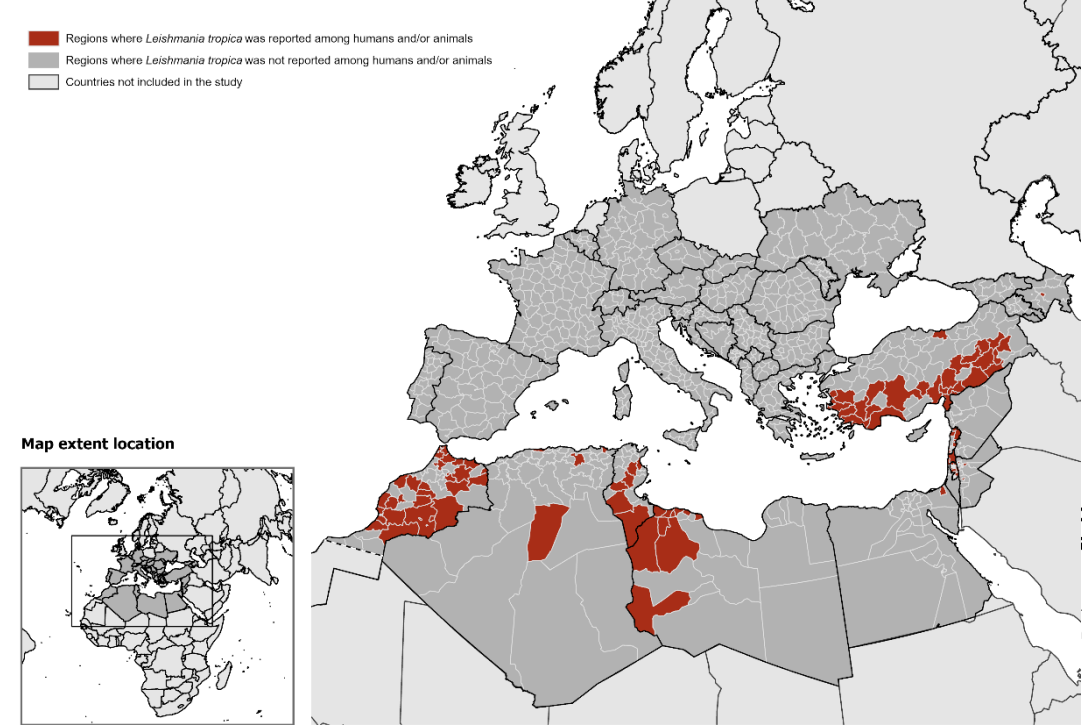


**Figure 6. Geographical distribution of reported human and/or animal leishmaniasis cases, European Union and neighbouring countries, 2009–2020**



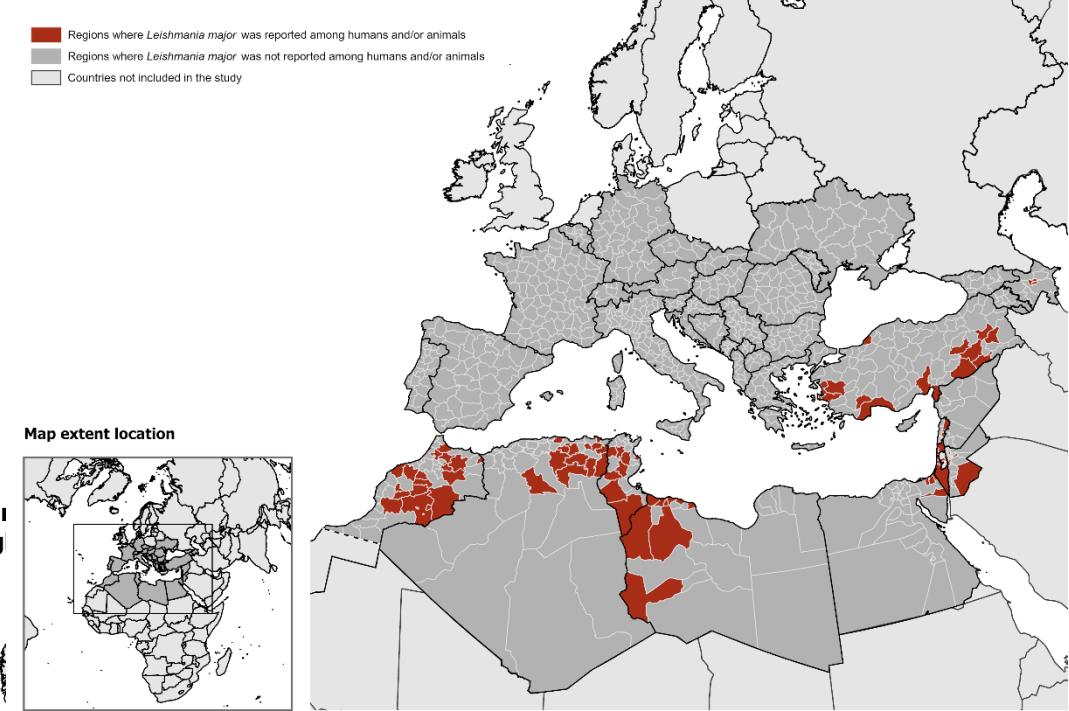
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**Figure 9.** Geographical distribution of reported human and/or animal cases of leishmaniasis due to *Leishmania tropica*, European Union and neighbouring countries, 2009–2020



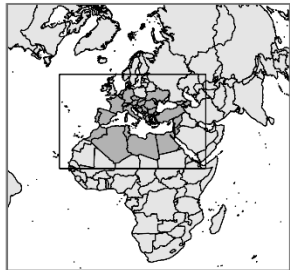
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**Figure 8.** Geographical distribution of reported human and/or animal cases of leishmaniasis due to *Leishmania major*, European Union and neighbouring countries, 2009–2020



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**Map extent location**



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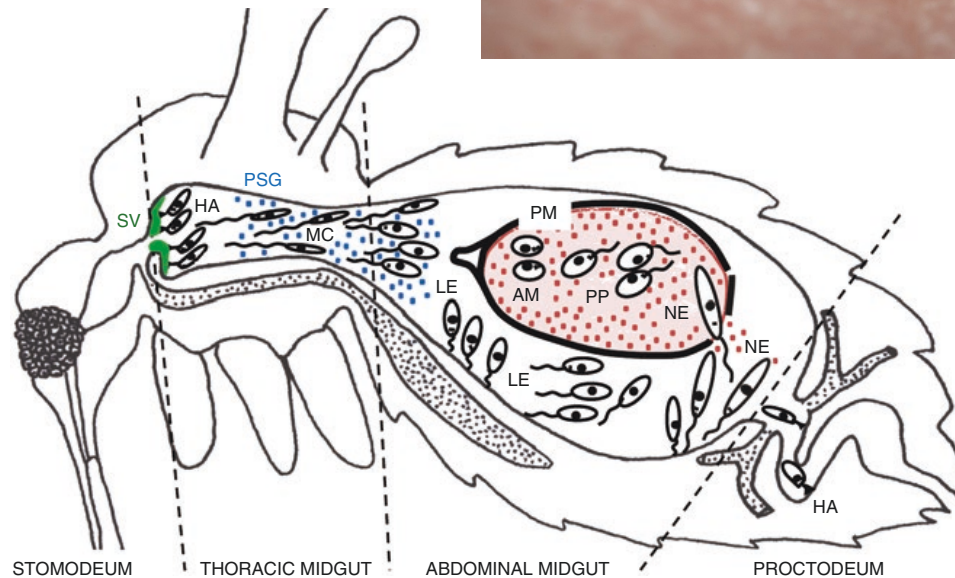


# One Health approach and NTDs



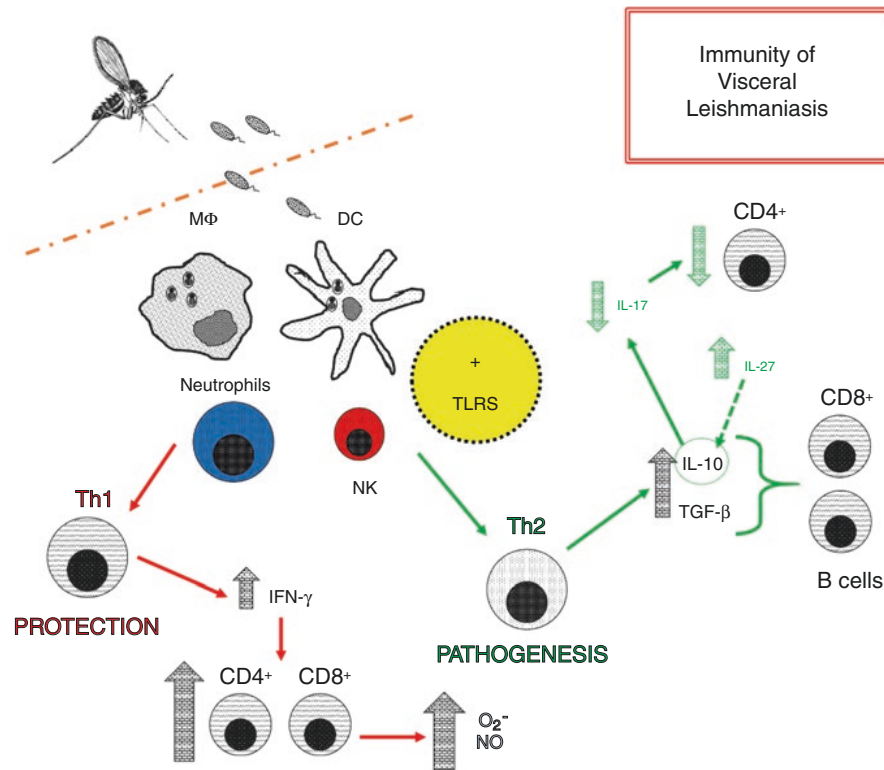
- All aspects of human, animal, and ecology to recognizing their interconnectedness
- **Socio-economic factors:** higher risk for impoverished communities
- **Political and migratory influences:** high infection rates occurring in war zones and densely populated areas such as refugee camps
- **Environmental Risk Factors:** the warming climate can affect the movement of vectors and reservoir animals. Mass deforestation may influence the increase of Leishmaniases

# The main actor: Phlebotomine sand flies



PM: Peritrophic Matrix  
AM: Amastigotes  
PP: Procyclic Promastigotes  
NE: Neptomonas  
LE: Leptomonas  
HA: Haptomonads  
MC: Metacyclics  
PSG: Promastigote Secretory Gel  
SV: Stomodaeal Valve

# Immunological unbalance during VL (ZVL)



Immunocompromised patients:

- HIV +
- Long-term immune-suppressive treatment
- Chronic diseases
- Co-infections

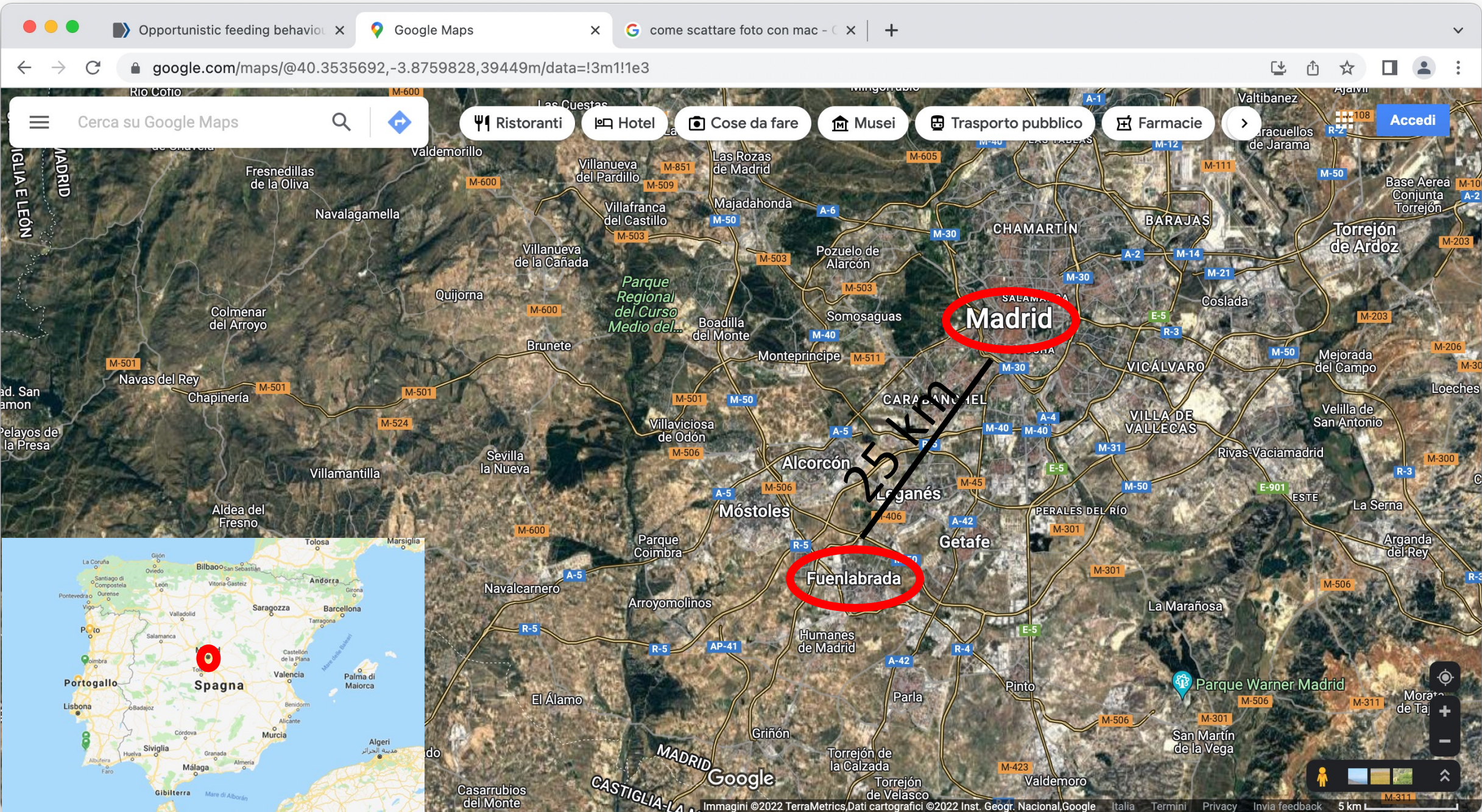
• IMMUNOCOMPETENT PATIENTS



# The Fuenlabrada (Spain, Europe) case

- In Spain, more than 8,000 hospitalizations related to leishmaniasis have been registered between 1997 and 2011
- The only species present, *Leishmania infantum*, is hypoendemic and causes both cutaneous and visceral leishmaniasis (CL and VL)
- In 2009, a significant increase of cases was identified in southwestern of the Community of Madrid. Until June 2020, 479 cases of CL and 303 of VL have been registered, with a peak of 197 cases in 2011









## Peripheral parks





## NEW STUDIES ON

- The role of dog in maintaining and transmitting *Leishmania species* different from *L. infantum*





# Xenodiagnosis

## MAIN VARIABLES

- ✓ The number of sand flies employed for dog biting
- ✓ The nature and extension of the body surface exposed to their bite (whole body vs limited areas)
- ✓ The time of exposure





# We need more information on

- Vertical transmission
- Venereal transmission
- Organ(s) transplant transmission
- Blood derivatives transmission

# PREVENTION/TREATMENT



NOT INFECTED:

**Repellents (Pyrethroids)**

**Vaccine** (limits severe disease)

Avoiding breeding/transfusion

- INFECTED/SICK:

- **Repellents**

- **Anti-*Leishmania* drugs**

- Immune-potentiating drugs

- Avoiding breeding/transfusion

# PREVENTION/TREATMENT



HEALTHY PEOPLE:

**Repellents (Pyrethroids)**  
**Indoor/Outdoor spray**

**Vaccine not available !!!**

- SICK:
- ***Anti-Leishmania* drugs (L AmPh B)**
- Immune-potentiating drugs





**CLIMOS**

Climate Monitoring and Decision  
Support Framework for Sand Fly-  
borne Diseases Detection and  
Mitigation with Cost-benefit and  
Climate-policy Measures



The six Horizon Europe projects, **BlueAdapt**, **CATALYSE**, **CLIMOS**, **HIGH Horizons**, **IDAlert**, and **TRIGGER**, form the climate change and health cluster



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**UK Research  
and Innovation**

UK Research and Innovation,  
Horizon Europe Guarantee.

Providing a better knowledge and  
comprehension of climate and environmental  
drivers of sand fly-borne diseases

**– The CLIMOS project –**

**Carla Maia**

17<sup>th</sup> Symposium of the CVBD World Forum, September 24-25, 2023, Lisbon, Portugal

# Take home messages

- Leishmaniases control must be conceived as an integrated approach
- **Control the vectors the main strategy**
- Fight the poverty, fight against global warming (and globalization) fight against the deforestation, do everything to save the environment. These are the best strategies to fight against Leishmaniases
- Companion animals are in the loop as innocent bystander