

## Introduction

Trachoma is an infectious disease caused by *Chlamydia trachomatis* – a micro-organism which

across the world, limited in its range only by its trophic requirements. *Musca sorbens* did not follow the human migration into the new world, (probably being unable to follow its hosts over the transient northern land bridges) and is absent from the Americas. This is likely why flies have not been linked with trachoma transmission in risk factor studies from Brazil and Mexico (Taylor et al. 1985; Luna et al. 1992).

### How many flies does a fly produce?

The theoretical ability for population growth in *M. sorbens* is mind bogglingly large. At a constant 28°C one adult female emerging on August 1st could have 17.8 million progeny by mid-October.

Thankfully, this does not happen; the population is limited by predators, parasites, disease, and most importantly the availability of larval media. If a suitable medium exists where *M. sorbens* can survive, it will produce a large number of offspring.







