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## A researcher identifies the parasites responsible for Chagas and Leishmaniasis epidemics

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**Parasites must be correctly identified before they can be introduced. To do so, we need a fast and reliable method to obtain the necessary results in our studies, especially in developed countries where there are no specific diagnostic tests.**

The Department of Parasitology of University of Granada [http://www.ugr.es]), and the researcher Ismael Sánchez, submitted a thesis that analyses for the first time the parasites responsible for diseases such as Chagas – which is widespread in South America – and Leishmaniasis – which is widespread throughout the world. The World Health Organization considers these diseases as a public health problem.

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### Chagas disease

Symptoms, causes, and treatments of Chagas disease  
www.Healthline.com

This study has compared different strains, by using bioinformatics. Thanks to these techniques, we can identify which group of parasites is responsible for the disease.

No medical treatment is available for Chagas disease.

The researcher points out that, until now, there have not been any medicines that can cure the disease. The consequences of the disease are long and expensive. Some specific treatments, others do not have any effect.

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"If we want to find a cure, we have to take is to correctly identify these species. This is also of epidemiological value to understand parasite distribution, and is aimed at discovering specific control measures.

Another important feature of the study is the usefulness of one of the techniques used: PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction). It is a relatively simple technique, cheap in comparison with others. PCR makes it possible to identify the isolated parasites in field studies.

The results of the study have already been published in some of the most important scientific journals in the field of Parasitology, such as Parasitology Research, Experimental Parasitology or FEMS Microbiology Letters.

Antonio Marín Ruiz | Quelle: alphagalileo

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prensa.ugr.es/prensa/research/index.php

➤ nächste Meldung