

HUMAN MYIASIS IN FARS PROVINCE, IRAN

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Abstract. We evaluated the prevalence and consequences of human myiasis among people involved in animal husbandry and butchers among 6 counties in Fars Province, Iran using a descriptive cross sectional survey. A semi-structured questionnaire was used to evaluate knowledge, community perceptions and practices. Three hundred two herders shepherds and butchers were included in the study. Eighty-eight point three percent of subjects had experienced myiasis during their job experiences. Seventy-one point five percent had become infected in barns. Pharyngeal myiasis was reported by 87% of subjects. The most likely cause of myiasis in subjects was the sheep botfly, *Oestrus ovis* (Diptera: Oestridae). Age and job experiences did not have an effect on the knowledge and practice regarding myiasis of subjects. Academic educational level had no significant effect on knowledge but did have a significant effect on practices. A myiasis education program needs to be created to better control and prevent this problem.

Keywords: human myiasis, sheep botfly, *Oestrus ovis*, Iran

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