

The past and present threat of rickettsial diseases



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Outline

- History
- Transmission
- Epidemiology
- Clinical manifestations
- Threat of rickettsial diseases



Introduction and history

- **Scrub typhus**, is an acute infectious disease of variable severity that is transmitted to humans by an **arthropod vector** of the **Trombiculidae** family.
- “**Tsutsuga**” means small and dangerous.
- “**mushi**” means insect or mite.



Burden of disease

- *Scrub typhus* is confined geographically to the Asia Pacific region, **a billion people are at risk** and **nearly a million cases are reported every year**.
- It affects people of all ages including **children**. Humans are accidental hosts in this zoonotic disease.



Scrub Typhus

- The term “**scrub**” is used because of the type of **vegetation** (terrain between woods and clearings) that harbors the vector.
- The word “**typhus**” is derived from the Greek word “typhus”, which means “**fever with stupor**” .

