

AN EVALUATION OF IMMUNOFLUORESCENCE ASSAYS ON ASEXUAL BLOOD STAGES OF *PLASMODIUM FALCIPARUM* AND *PLASMODIUM VIVAX* FOR QUANTITATING ANTIBODIES IN ENDEMIC AREA POPULATIONS

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Abstract: Antibodies against asexual blood stage antigens were measured by immunofluorescence assay (IFA) in sera collected in February 1990 and May 1990 from Weheragala village in the Mahaweli irrigation project located in the dry zone of Sri Lanka. The results were compared with IFA on sera collected in October 1990 at Nikawehera village in the intermediate rainfall zone of Sri Lanka. The IFA titres in Weheragala sera were also compared with antibody concentrations against specific epitopes of *P. falciparum* and *P. vivax* surface antigens previously measured by an immunoradiometric assay (IRMA) on the same serum samples. At both Nikawehera and Weheragala, IFA titres were greater in adults than in 7-15y old children. IFA titres against *P. falciparum* and *P. vivax* were significantly correlated at both locations. IFA titres are also a less sensitive index of malaria transmission than specific antibody concentrations measured by IRMA.