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Author: Luisa Barzon

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Ongoing and emerging arbovirus threats in Europe

Luisa Barzon

Department of Molecular Medicine, University of Padova, Padova, Italy

*Correspondence:

Luisa Barzon, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of Padova, via A. Gabelli 63, 35128 Padova, Italy. Tel. +390498218946; fax +390498218946; email luisa.barzon@unipd.it

Abstract

During the last decades, arboviruses that are endemic in Europe have expanded their geographic range and caused an increasing number of human outbreaks. These viruses include West Nile virus, which is expanding its area of circulation in central and southern Europe; Usutu virus, with increasing evidence of a role in human disease; tick-borne encephalitis virus, which is being detected in northern areas and at higher altitudes as a consequence of climate warming; Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus, which is endemic in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, but has been recently detected in Spain; other viruses, such as California encephalitis virus antigenic group, which circulate in northern and central Europe but whose relevance for human disease in largely unknown. In addition, the rise in global travel and trade has posed Europe to an increased risk of introduction and expansion of exotic arthropod vectors and autochthonous transmission of arboviruses, like dengue and chikungunya viruses, following new introductions from endemic areas. Implementation of integrated arbovirus surveillance programs has been

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