

Scrub Typhus

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In News: An outbreak of Scrub Typhus (also known as Bush Typhus), a bacterial disease, has caused 5 deaths and 600 infections in Nagaland's Noklak district bordering Myanmar.

About Scrub Typhus

- Scrub typhus, also known as bush typhus, is a disease caused by a bacteria called *Orientia tsutsugamushi*. Scrub typhus is spread to people through bites of infected larval mites.
- The mites are found in grasslands, forests, bush areas, wood piles, gardens, and beaches.
- Scrub Typhus can also be transmitted through unscreened blood transfusions and unhygienic needles. It does not spread from person to person.
- The most common symptoms of scrub typhus include fever, headache, body aches, and sometimes rash.

Key Points

- It is a disease **caused** by a bacteria called *Orientia tsutsugamushi*.
- **Symptoms** of scrub typhus usually begin within 10 days of being bitten. Signs and symptoms may include:
 - Fever and chills
 - Headache
 - Body aches and muscle pain
 - A dark, scab-like region at the site of the chigger bite
 - Mental changes, ranging from confusion to coma
 - Enlarged lymph nodes
 - Rash
- Scrub typhus should be **treated** with the antibiotic and most effective if given soon after symptoms begin.
- **Occurrence:** Rural areas of Southeast Asia, Indonesia,

China, Japan, India, and northern Australia.

- **No vaccine** is available to prevent scrub typhus.
- **Spread:** Through bites of Larval Mites of family trombiculid, also called Chiggers.

Typhus

- Typhus is a group of bacterial infectious diseases that include epidemic typhus, scrub typhus, and murine typhus.
 - Epidemic typhus is due to *Rickettsia prowazekii* spread by body lice.
 - Scrub typhus is due to *Orientia tsutsugamushi* spread by chiggers.
 - Murine typhus is due to *Rickettsia typhi* spread by fleas