

# Onchocerciasis in the Americas: from arrival to (near) elimination

Ke G a e <sup>1\*</sup>, Adra Ho; <sup>2</sup> a d Ma rco Sa erbre <sup>3</sup>

## A

Onchocerciasis (river blindness) is a debilitating disease caused by the parasitic nematode *Onchocerca volvulus*. It is a major cause of blindness and disability in sub-Saharan Africa, where approximately 120 million people are at risk. In the Americas, onchocerciasis was introduced by the slave trade in the 16th century. It was first reported in the Americas in 1565 in the Caribbean. The parasite was introduced to the Americas by the slave trade, and it spread to the Americas through the transatlantic slave trade. Onchocerciasis was first reported in the Americas in 1565 in the Caribbean. The parasite was introduced to the Americas by the slave trade, and it spread to the Americas through the transatlantic slave trade. Onchocerciasis was first reported in the Americas in 1565 in the Caribbean. The parasite was introduced to the Americas by the slave trade, and it spread to the Americas through the transatlantic slave trade.

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