

Attempts to establish the armadillo (*Dasyopus novemcinctus* Linn.) as a model for the study of leprosy. I. Report of lepromatoid leprosy in an experimentally infected.

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Attempts to establish the armadillo (*Dasyopus novemcinctus* Linn.) as a model for the study of leprosy. I. Report of lepromatoid leprosy in an experimentally infected armadillo.

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Journal article : [International Journal of Leprosy](#) 1971 Vol.39 No.3 pp.693-702

Abstract : " It is reported that an armadillo (*Dasyopus novemcinctus*) has developed lepromatoid leprosy in an experimentally infected armadillo.

lepromatoid infection with *M. leprae* approximately 14 months after inoculation of bacilli, from an untreated case of lepromatous leprosy, into the skin of its ear lobes. The diagnosis of lepromatoid leprosy is supported by a 1000 fold increase in the inoculation sites of acid-fast bacteria, which do not grow on mycobacterial culture media and which oxidize D-dopa. In addition, these bacilli have been found in great numbers at a skin site remote from the inoculated site. The remote skin site was of normal appearance. The inoculated skin sites were characterized by massive nodular lesions. The acid-fast bacteria were intracellular, and typically made up much of the lepromas. Bacilli were also seen in cutaneous nerves. It is yet to evaluate the results of the mouse foot-pad inoculations of the bacilli. However, sections of the foot-pads show what one would expect of *M. leprae* after 14 months.

"The reasons for attempting transfer of leprosy to the armadillo and the potential significance of the armadillo in leprosy research have been discussed."

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