

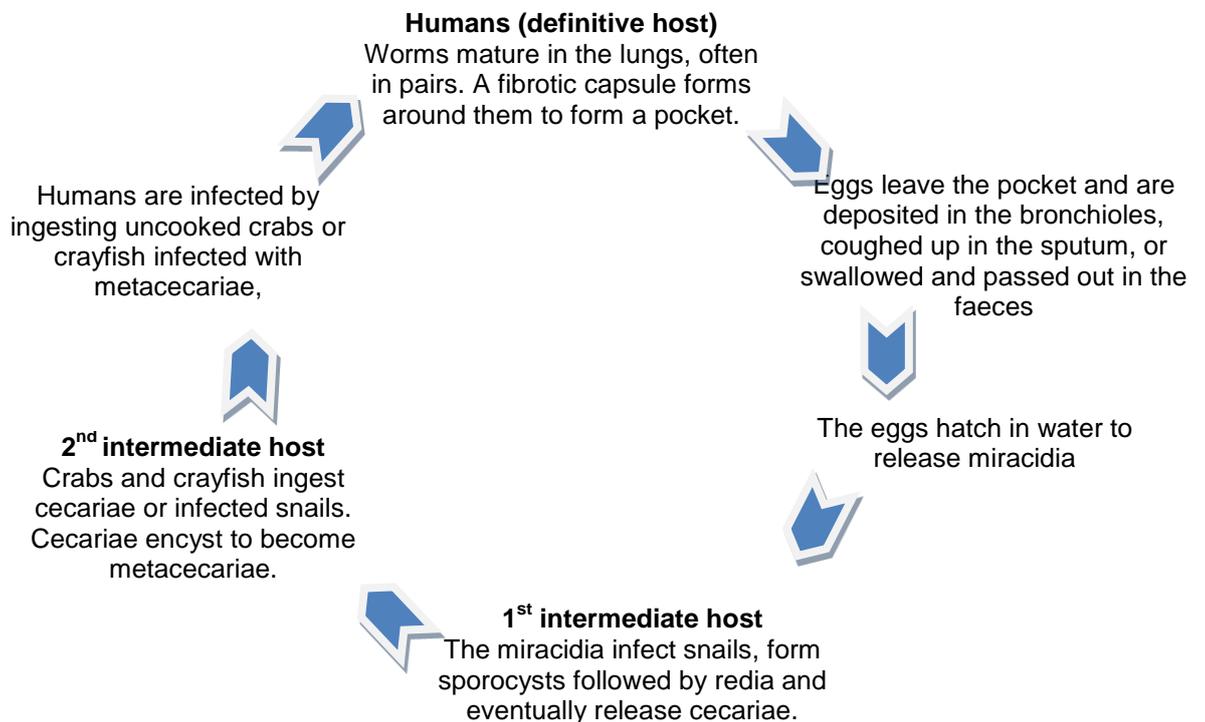
PHE National Parasitology Reference Laboratory, Hospital for Tropical Diseases, 3rd Floor Mortimer Market Centre, Capper Street, London WC1E 6JB, TEL: +44 (0) 207 383 0482, FAX +44 (0) 207 388 8985

***Paragonimus* species**

Introduction

Paragonimus species is a lung trematode found in West Africa, Asia, North, Central and South America, China, the Far East and Japan.

Life cycle



Clinical Disease

Symptoms due to *Paragonimus* species depend on the worm burden. Light infections may be asymptomatic although the lesion caused by the cyst can be detected on X-ray examination. A cough develops which produces viscous blood-tinged sputum. This is associated with chest-pain and may be misdiagnosed as tuberculosis.

Extra-pulmonary lesions may occur of which the most serious are intracranial. Symptoms include headache, convulsions, meningitis, visual disturbances, and hemiplegia.

Laboratory diagnosis

Laboratory diagnosis depends on the recovery of characteristic eggs from a sputum sample or formol ether concentrate of faeces. The eggs are ovoid, brownish-yellow, thick shelled and unembryonated. The eggs have an operculum at one end with opercular shoulders. They measure 65 - 90µm by 40- 50µm. The eggs of *Paragonimus* species can be confused with those of *Diphyllobothrium latum* whose eggs are ovoid, operculate, yellow brown in colour and of similar size. However, the eggs of *Paragonimus* species, unlike those of *D. latum* have opercular shoulders with a thickened wall at the apopercular end.



Ova of *Paragonimus* species