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Abstract:

Chagas disease vectors, *Triatoma dimidiata* were analyzed to determine the feeding habits. The samples used were from Central and South America, specifically, Mexico, Honduras, Belize, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador and El Salvador. The feeding habits were determined through quantitative polymerase chain reaction analysis. Probe analysis was used to determine the abundance of vectors that fed on chickens. Chickens, like all birds, cannot contract Chagas disease, thus they could potentially play a preventative role in the spread of Chagas disease using preferential feeding. While it was thought that the vectors that fed on chicken would be less likely to be a carrier of Chagas disease, in fact they were more likely.