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ECOLOGY OF ECTOPARASITE VECTORS

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The vectors among ectoparasites represent two animal types: among annelids - leeches, and among arthropods - copepods, isopods, branchiurans, insect and mites. Active transporters of microbes or invasion parasites from one organism to another are called vectors. The terrestial environment has been studied in a more thorough way than the marine one, especially regarding the vectors. Likewise, protozoa have been better examined than viruses and bacteria. The environment of ectoparasites and active transporters is differentiated. The ecology of active transporters includes the ways of finding hosts, modes of food ingestion, mechanisms of introducing microbes and bacteria into healthy organisms. All microbes including viruses, bacteria, fungi and protozoa enter vector's organisms by blood or lymph sucking. An important factor for the transporters are locations on host's body surface and the method of food ingestion. The host's behaviour is also of great importance, including the frequency of blood sucking. Too long intervals between food ingestion may result in discontinuation of invasion abilities or death of microbes and protozoans. The rate of danger caused by parasites - vectors depends on their geographical distribution and the importance of the host.