Table I—The effects of normal, homologous serum (NS), and serum from *S. mansoni* infected donors (SS) on the lymphocyte transformation response to T cell mitogens, and T cell rosetting with sheep red blood cells

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serum added to cultures</th>
<th>Lymphocyte Transformation*</th>
<th>T cells+ % forming Rosettes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHA</td>
<td>Con A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal (n = 7)</td>
<td>18,694 (4.2717 ± 0.02)</td>
<td>9,218 (3.9646 ± 0.07)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>S. mansoni</em> (n = 12)</td>
<td>17,708 (4.2482 ± 0.04)</td>
<td>6,460 (3.8102 ± 0.09)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Results expressed as geometric mean of the ¹⁴C-Thymidine uptake of cells, measured as counts per minute. Figures in brackets are the mean log values plus or minus 1 standard deviation.
+ Results expressed as arithmetic mean plus or minus 1 standard deviation.

**Discussion**

Equivalent numbers of T-cells in the presence or absence of SS, and the normal response to PHA in the presence of SS indicates that the suppression of the Con A responses noted here cannot be explained by a general cytotoxic action of the schistosomiasis serum on normal lymphocytes.

A notable feature of human schistosomiasis infection is the presence, in the serum, of immune complexes (IC) comprised of parasite antigens and the appropriate antibodies. (BOUT et al., 1977; PHILLIPS & DRAPER, 1975). The relatively large size of the suppressive molecules, and the observation that they are non-dialysable is consistent with the proposition that IC may be the mediators of the Con A suppression. Directly relevant to this argument is the fact that IC, via Fc receptors on the lymphocyte surface membrane, can block the Con A response, but specific inhibition of the PHA response is negligible (RYAN et al., 1975; STOUT & HERZENBERG, 1975). Such suppression of a T-cell subpopulation, during *S. mansoni* infection, may have favourable consequences for the adult worm in the host’s circulatory system. Also, the depression of cell-mediated immunity, by inhibitory serum factors, may account for the alleviation of the T-cell-mediated, granulomatous response that is noted in chronic schistosomiasis (DOMINGO & WARREN, 1968).

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**References**


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**CORRIGENDUM**

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The seasonal incidence of primary amoebic meningoencephalitis in Northern Nigeria.

It is regretted that, due to a misunderstanding, the names of S. N. Abraham and A. A. Odewumi, also of the Dept. of Microbiology, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria, were not included with that of R. V. Lawande as co-authors of this letter.