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Orientia tsutsugamushi

[or'e-en'she-ə (t)süt'sə-gə-mü'she]

Etiologic agent of scrub typhus, transmitted by the bite of thrombiculid mite larvae. From the Latin *oriens*, "east" and the Japanese *tsutsuga*, "sickness" plus *mushi*, "insect." The disease was first documented in China in 313 AD and has been a frequent cause of illness in soldiers stationed in the western Pacific. In Vietnam, *O. tsutsugamushi* was among the most common causes of fever in soldiers.

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