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# etymologia

## *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.

**Sources:** Dorland's illustrated medical dictionary. 30th ed. Philadelphia: Saunders; 2003; Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. 11th ed. Springfield (MA): Merriam-Webster Incorporated; 2003; and Raoult D. Scrub typhus. In: Mandel GL, Bennett JE, Dolin R, editors. *Principles & Practice of Infectious Diseases.* 6th ed. Churchill Livingstone; 2004. p. 2309-10.

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