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### BEHAVIORS ASSOCIATED WITH WATER CONTACT AND *SCHISTOSOMA JAPONICUM* INFECTION IN A RIVER THE DONGTING LAKE REGION, CHINA

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**Abstract:** Although identification of water contact patterns is one of the key factors for the prevention of *Schistosoma japonicum* infection, it is important to clarify specific high-risk behaviors and their implications. Parasitic

behavioral observations were carried out in a rural village, the Dongting Lake region. A time-allocation study conducted by a time-saving spot-check method to quantify the behavioral risks. Of the 122 participants, 18 (14.8% interval: 8.5, 21.0) were positive for *S. japonicum*. Among those di (25–75% quartile) eggs per gram was 8 (8–16). A significant positive worm intensity was found among people who repair ships on the lake and this potential risk was consistent with previous suggestions. Although techniques and study design require further improvements, our observation is of use to explicitly identify behaviors at the local level that could be prevented.

**Key words:** [Schistosoma japonicum](#), [Schistosomiasis](#), [Water mismanagement](#), [Environmental exposure](#), [Behavior](#), [China](#)

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