

Reply

To the Editor: We are thankful to Dr. Sundharam et al. for their comments on our article [Ann Saudi Med 1993;13:464-6]. Cutaneous myiasis definitely is not common in the Damman area and our comments on the rest of the country were based on published reports. They refer to the "letter to the editor" by Omar (1993) to support their statement that myiasis is "rife" in the Asir region. First, the word "rife" is too strong to describe this condition. Second, the letter of Dr. Omar appeared in January 1993 whereas our paper was submitted to the *Annals* in August 1992 and therefore, we could not include our reference. Thus, there was no intention to mislead our readers. However, it is informative to note that Dr. Sundharam et al. have seen (from 1990 to 1993) 31 cases of cutaneous myiasis due to the Tumbu fly in Zahran Al-Janour PHCC but were not published, except the single case report of Dr. Gupta from the same clinic. It is of interest that Omar (1993) points out the errors presented by the author of the first report from Dr. Sundaram's institution in describing the appearance of the larvae of the Tumbu fly. We wonder if the identification of these 31 cases was made by a clinician or by a properly trained parasitologist who for some reason remains anonymous in their letter.

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