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etymologia

chikungunya

[chik"ən-gun'yə]

From the language of the Makonde, northern Mozambique and southeast Tanzania (often misattributed to Swahili), “that which bends up.” Chikungunya refers to the stooped posture that develops as a result of arthritic symptoms. A self-limiting disease, chikungunya is caused by an alphavirus spread by the bite of *Aedes* mosquitoes. Though not generally fatal, the disease can be severe. A widespread outbreak in islands of the Indian Ocean, begun in February 2005, has caused >200 deaths.

Sources: Dorland's illustrated medical dictionary. 30th ed. Philadelphia: Saunders; 2003 and wikipedia.org

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