

Early Mention of the Term Epidemiology

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To the Editor: The excellent article on measures for controlling plague in Alghero, Sardinia, describes the procedures introduced by the Calabrian doctor Quinto Tiberio Angelerio (1532–1617) to combat an outbreak during 1582–1583 (1). The authors cite 2 works published by Angelerio relating to these events, *Ectypa* (1588) (2) and *Epidemiologia* (1598) (3). To say that *Epidemiologia* was written only in Spanish is a small error, however, because both works were written in Latin. *Ectypa* contains an appendix written in Catalan with the measures to take during an epidemic, whereas in *Epidemiologia*, this appendix was written in Spanish.

A third and posthumous edition, not cited in the article, was found recently in the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (4). *Epydem* (5) was published in Naples in 1651 by Angelerio's nephew. This work was written in Latin and did not contain appendices but did include a brief biography of Angelerio. The terms epidemic (Greek) and plague (Latin) were used ambiguously to refer to “maladies that came from abroad or afflicted us collectively.”

The major aspect of Angelerio's texts, especially *Epidemiologia* (3), is that the term epidemiology was used here for the first time in a “treatise on the plague” in the sense of “how to protect yourself from it when it erupts.” The term was adopted by the Spanish physician Joaquín de Villalba (1752–1807) who, citing Angelerio, used it as the title for his work *Epidemiología Española* (6). This treatise gained wide circulation, and the term was espoused by various authors from the beginning of the 19th century onward. Villalba used it to compose a historical chronology of the epidemics in Spain, noting the type of disease and the place and year in which it had occurred; this was an initial approach to the concept of epidemiology, which coincided with the development of medical topographies and statistics applied to infectious diseases.

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Travel-Associated *Vibrio cholerae* O1 El Tor, Russia

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To the Editor: Cholera—a severe, waterborne, virulent enteric infection caused by toxigenic strains of *Vibrio cholerae*—frequently causes epidemics in developing countries and sporadic cases or local outbreaks in developed countries. The geographic features of Russia and intensive globalization have established favorable conditions for travel-associated cholera from regions to which it is endemic. During 2005–2012, six such cases occurred in Russia; these cases were related to travel from India. Three of the cases were registered in 2010, three months before the cholera outbreak in Haiti, one of the most extensive outbreaks in recent history (1). We genetically analyzed 4 isolates collected in 2010 and 2012 using whole-genome sequencing (online Technical Appendix 1, <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/EID/article/22/11/15-1727-Techapp1.pdf>) and compared the results with a public data-