

TSETSE FLY

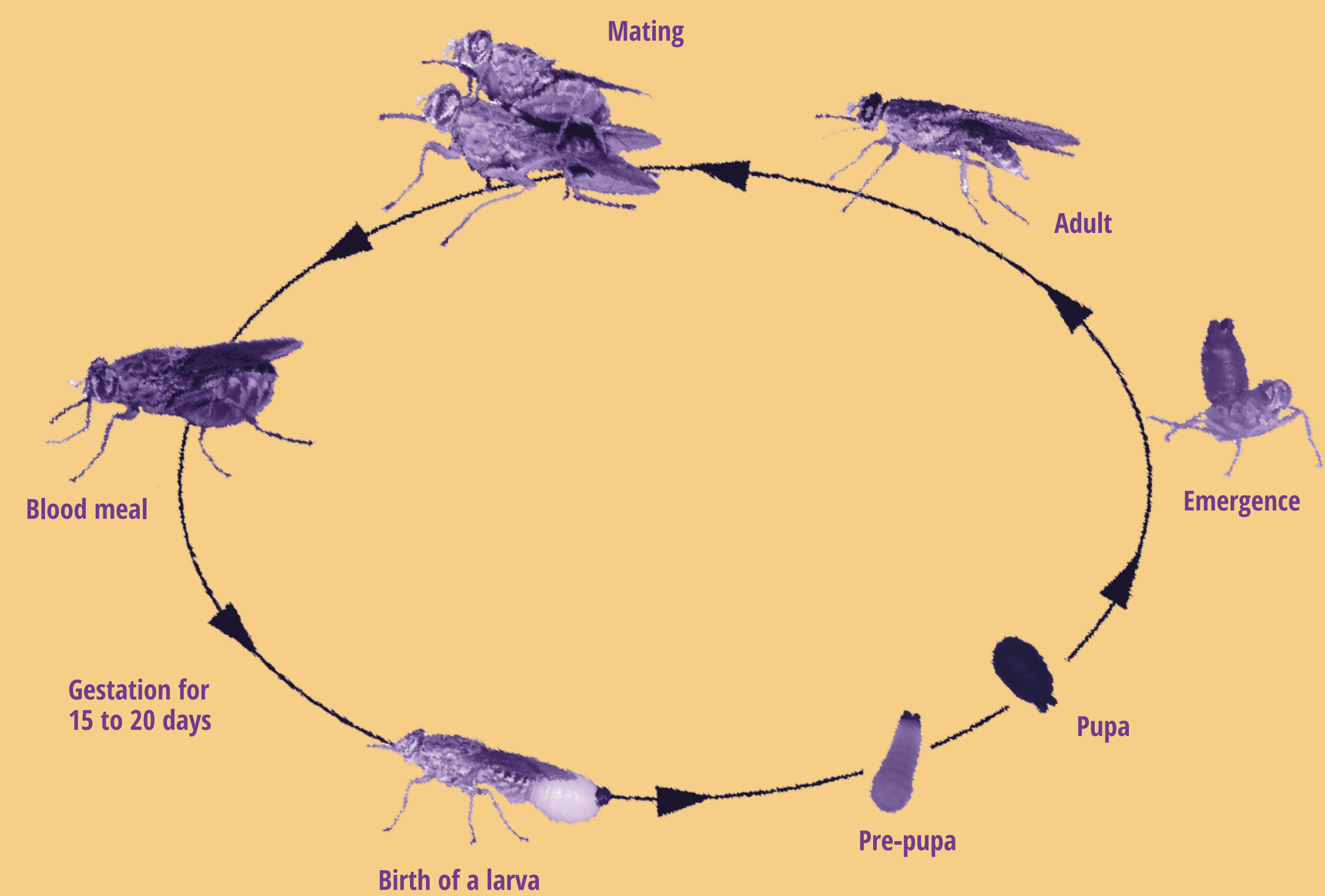
sleeping sickness

Name *Glossina palpalis*
Length 10 mm
Longevity as a biting insect 2-3 months
Special feature low reproduction rate



Biology of the vector

Among vectors, the tsetse fly (genus *Glossina*) has original features: adults of both sexes feed on blood only and the females do not lay eggs but 'give birth' to 3 to 5 large larvae during their lifetime.

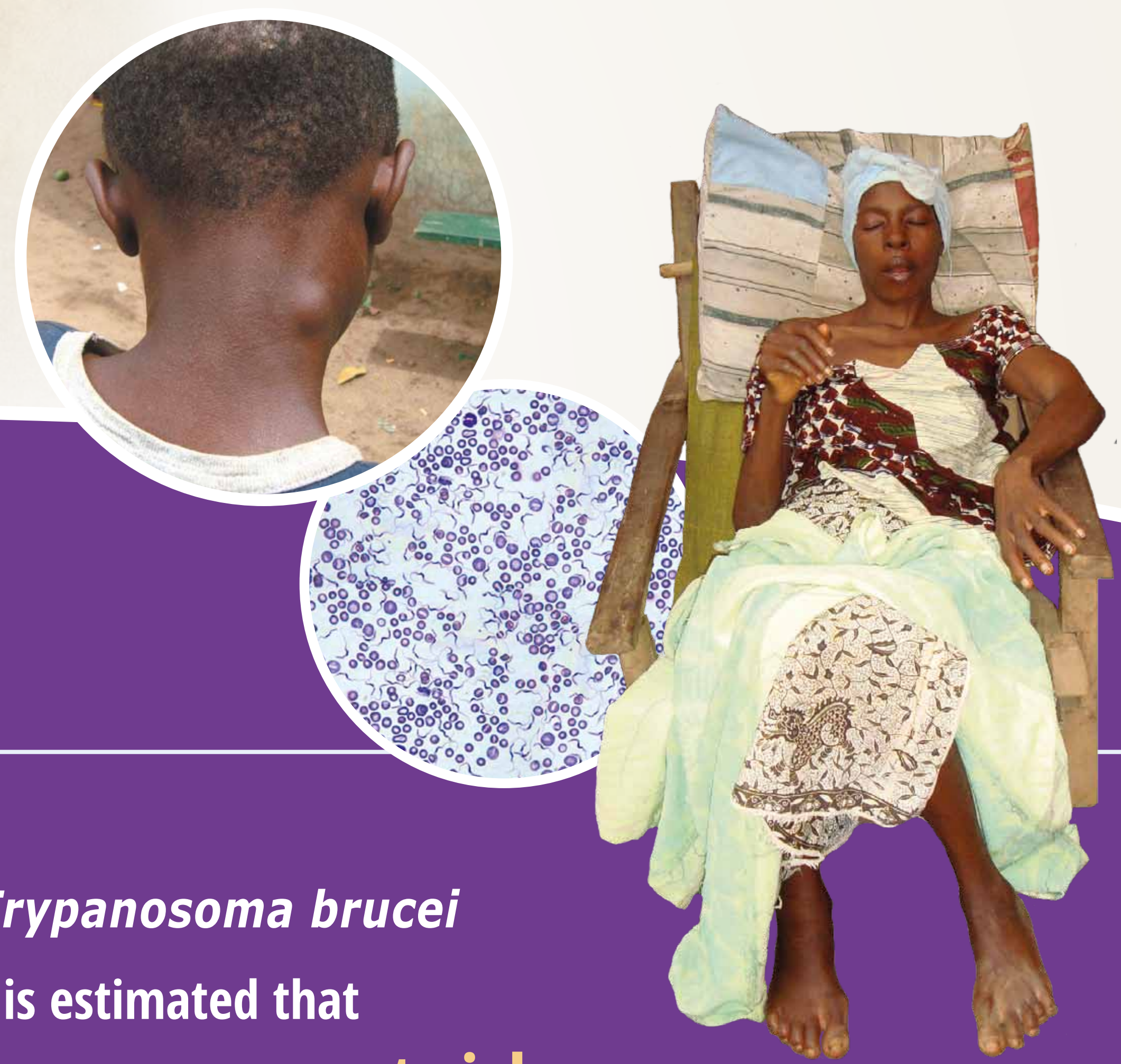


Geographic distribution

Distribution of sleeping sickness



Tsetse flies are found only in **Sub-Saharan Africa**.
Their **thermal optimum** is around 25°C.
Furthermore, these flies do not survive if the air is too dry.



Vector transmission

Trypanosoma parasites are injected in human or animal blood with tsetse fly saliva and multiply, causing **swellings**, and then reach the brain of the host. The **sleepiness** experienced is the source of the common name of the disease: 'sleeping sickness'. **Infected persons die** without treatment. More than 98 % of cases of human trypanosomiasis

are caused by *Trypanosoma brucei gambiense*. It is estimated that **70 million persons are at risk** in 37 African countries and **50 million head of cattle are exposed**. This is a problem of public health and a major obstacle to livestock farming.



Prevention and control

There is no vaccine or preventive treatment for these parasitic diseases, whence the importance of vector control. Actions that can be taken:

- Reducing tsetse fly population by means of **insecticides** and **traps**
- **Early screening** for the disease
- **Treatment of patients** according to the stage of the disease

'Tsetse' is an African term referring to the sound of a fly in flight

