

Air travel spreading disease, claims study

THE BOOM in international air travel in recent years has helped make diseases like swine flu, measles and malaria more deadly to humans, a new study by Scots scientists has suggested.

Researchers at Edinburgh University say that the increase, fuelled by low-cost air carriers, means that not only are humans more exposed to parasites and viruses—but that the viruses themselves are likely to become more harmful.

The study found that diseases that have originated abroad—like swine flu in Mexico and malaria, borne by mosquitoes in tropical and sub-tropical regions—could become even more dangerous as a result of greater movement of human around the globe.

Dr Andy Gardner, of Edinburgh University's school of biological sciences, said, "The more humans move around the more likely diseases like swine flu are to become killers."