

# BUBONIC PLAGUE EPIDEMIC OF 1908

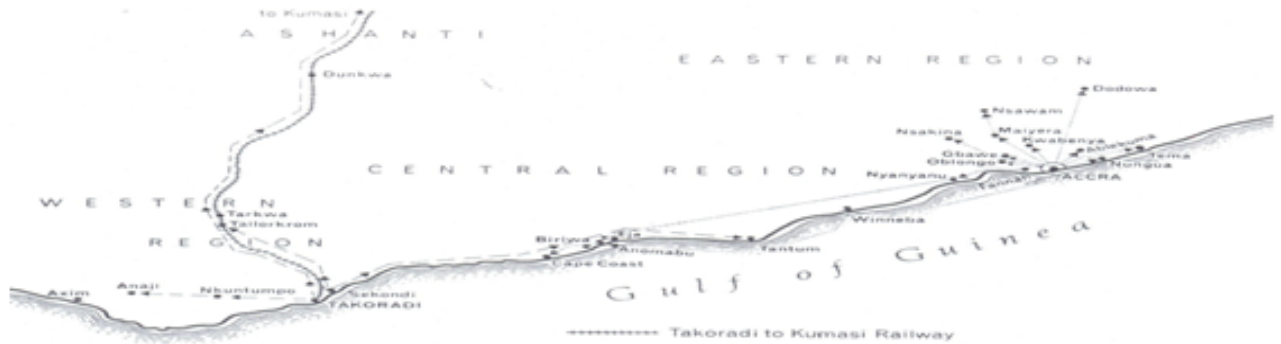
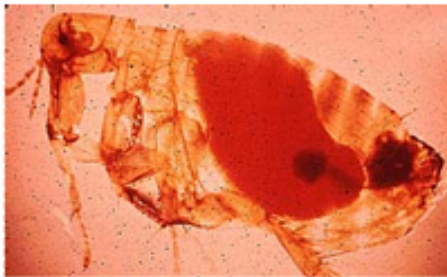


FIG. 2. The spread of plague in 1908 and 1924.



Rat Flea



Rat Flea

Was characterized by fever, the appearance of buboes, and had a rapidly fatal outcome.

Concentrated in Accra but spread along coast.

Low number of cases (344) but high fatality rate (87%)

Because of the recent (late 19th Century & early 20th century) large bubonic plague epidemics around the world (which claimed more than 12 million lives in India alone and 15 million lives worldwide), Governor John Rodger responded decisively with several important measures, including:

1. Establishment of the Sanitary Branch of the government with broad authority to clean streets and introduce rat control measures.
2. Establishment of the Accra Laboratory (laboratory work had previously been carried out in one room of the hospital) with necessary equipment to carry out post-mortem examinations and, more importantly, to produce vaccines locally.
3. Establishment of the first pipe-borne clean water in the Gold Coast at Accra and Sekondi in 1910