(SOREMA program, ANR INEGALITES 2011)

### Health geography:

the variability of health risks as territorial constructions and space practices indicator.

P. Handschumacher,



# The fundamental questions of geographical studies

Why here and not there, or why different levels in different places?

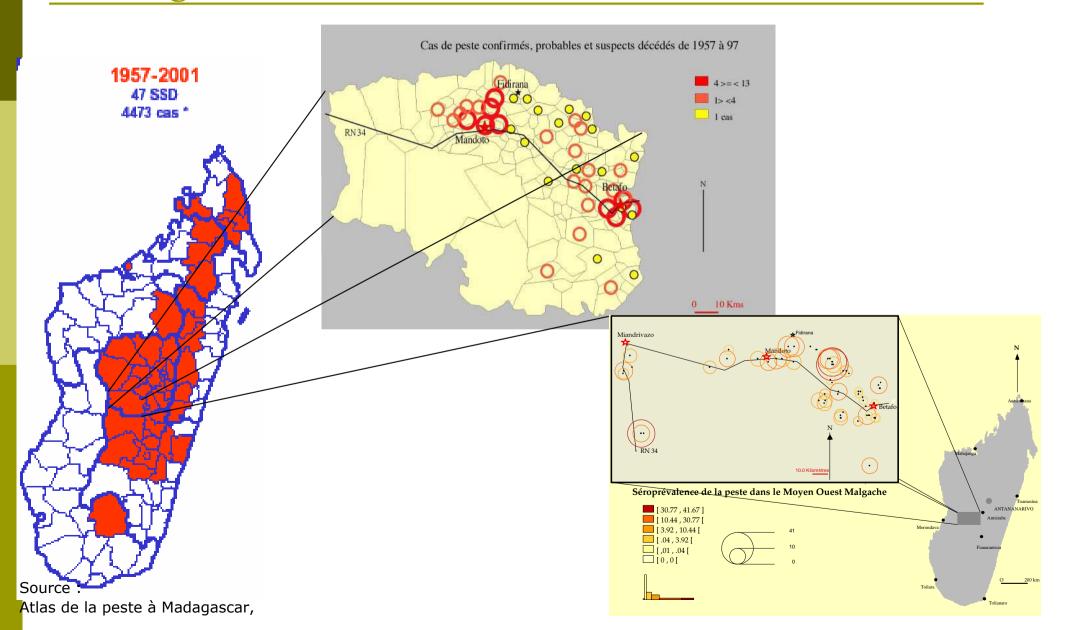
Why now and not before, or why does the observed phenomenon decrease or increase?

What are the underlying processes which can explain spatial disparities?

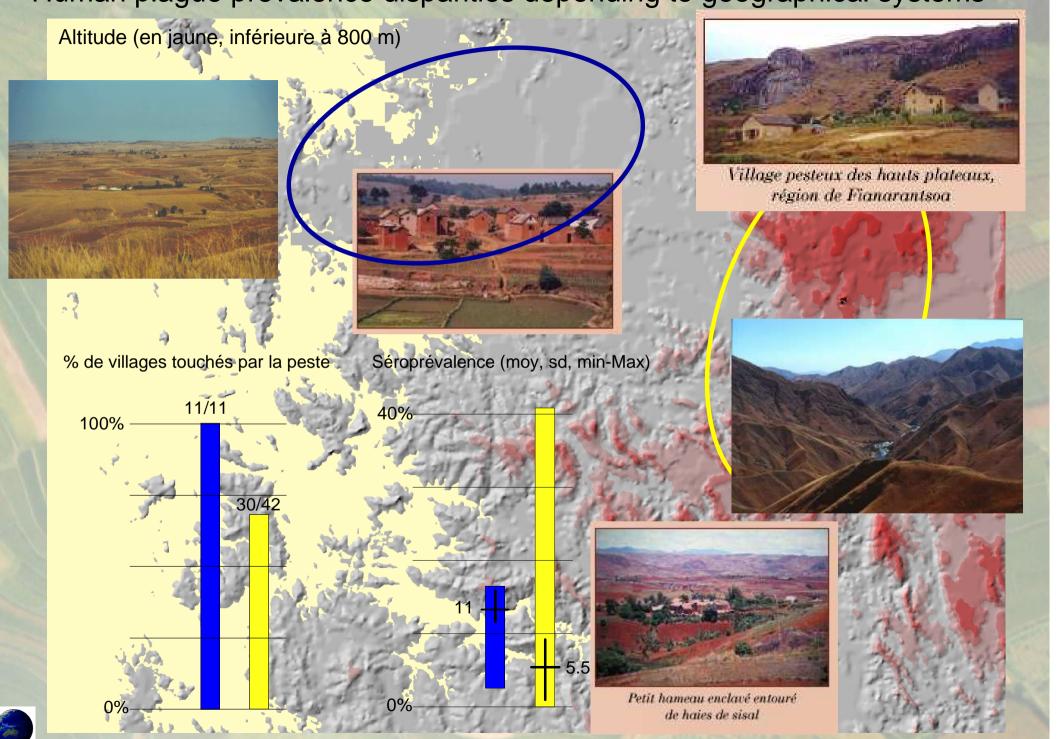
## Position of health geography

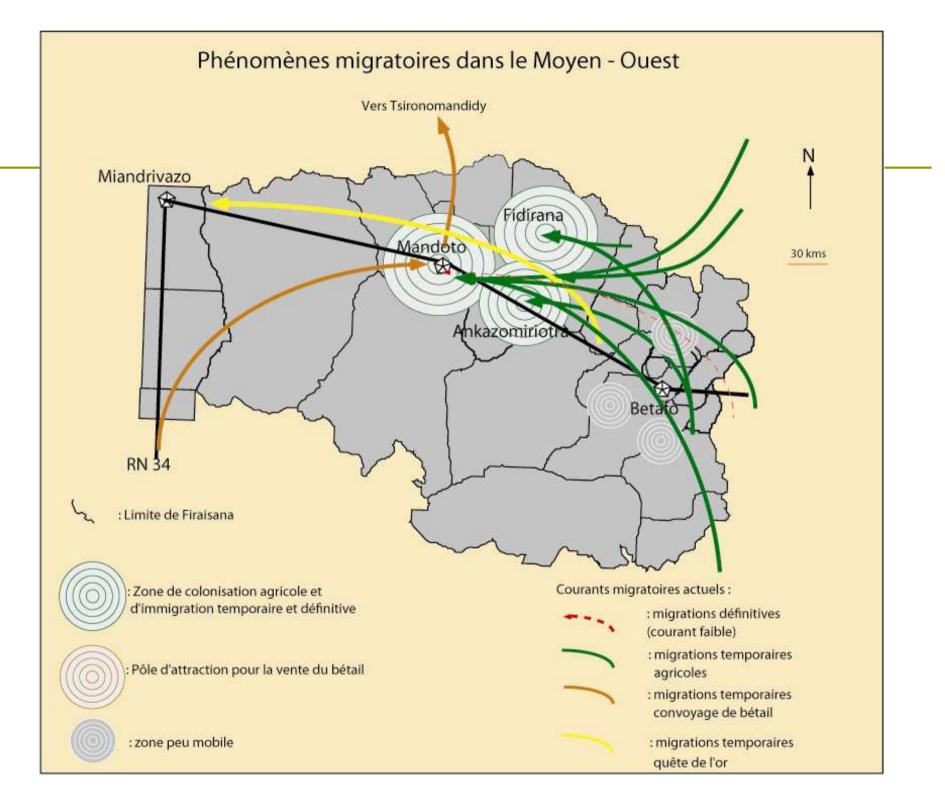
- The fundamental position of health geography:
  - Disease disparities are related with contamination determinants (biological, social, political, migrations, way of live...)
  - Disease disparities are related with care (health care distribution and care recourse, drugs availability...)
  - Health profiles are determined by both fields and health disparities reveal disparities in territories history and way of management by various stakeholders
- The question of scale:
  - Potential area
  - Functional area
  - Shared spaces

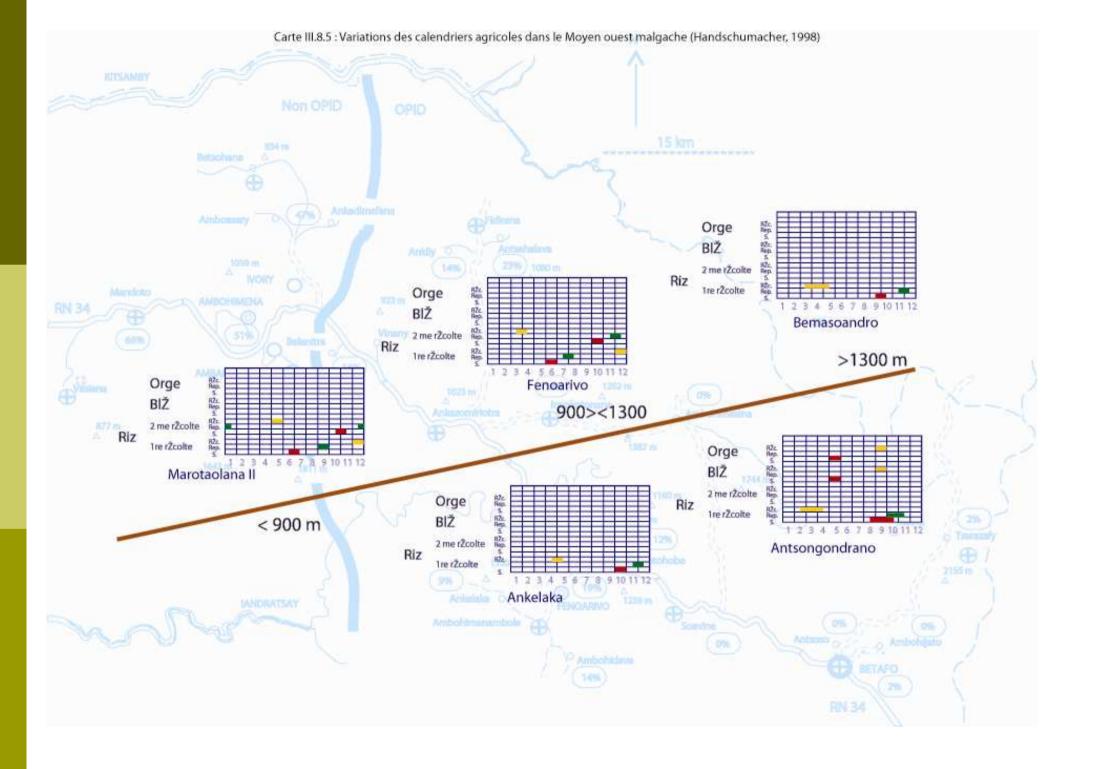
## Spatial variability of plague in Middle-West Madagascar, ANR Program DIFFUPESTE



#### Human plague prevalence disparities depending to geographical systems







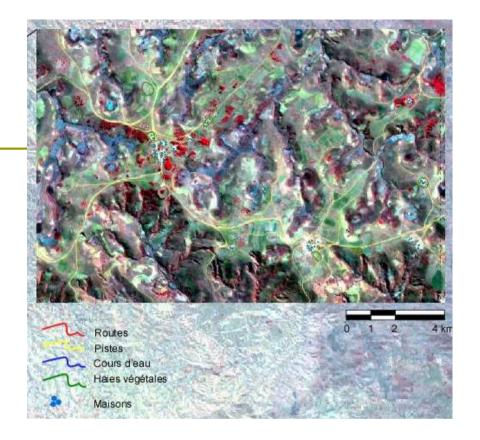
### Discriminating factors at regional scale:

An homogeneous plague circulation in the peneplain of Mandoto with little marked relief, a weak to average population densities but big villages, spaces offered to agricultural colonization and migration = physically and socially open spaces

A plague focused in small valley on the west limit of Vakinankaratra, a marked relief, small human establishments in spite of high population densities. Ancient populated space = socially and physically closed spaces

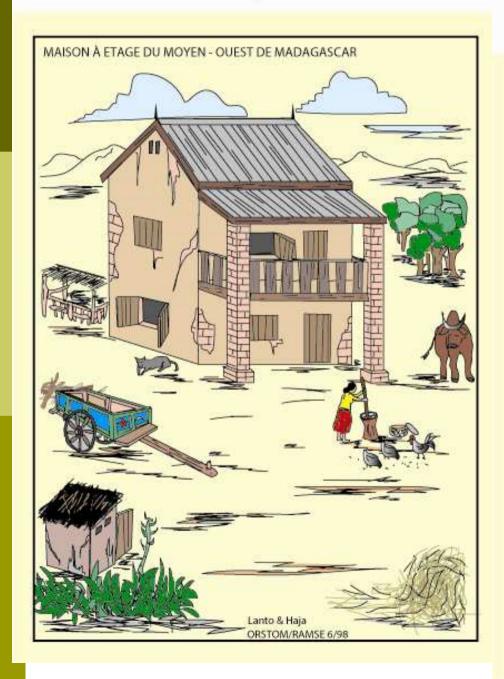
## To explain spatial variability of plague

- Spatial indicator generalization
- Linkage between genetic and geographic distance of hosts (R. rattus)

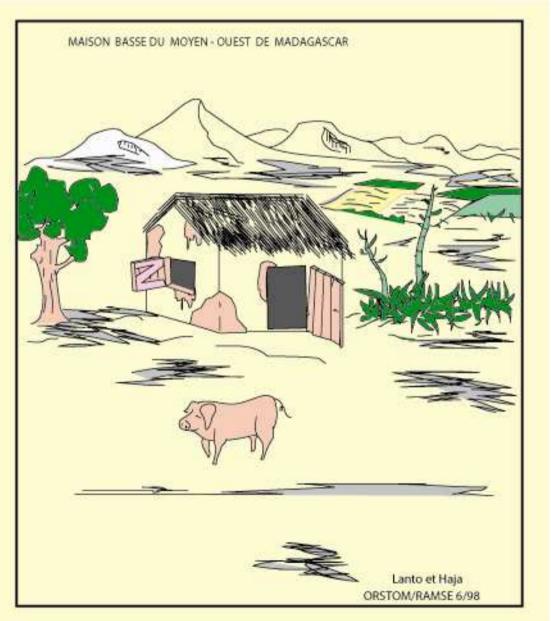


- Space practices et relationship between human communities
- Understanding territorial functioning

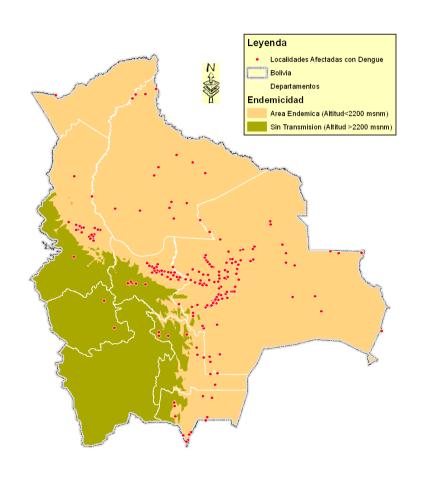
#### Maison à risque réduit

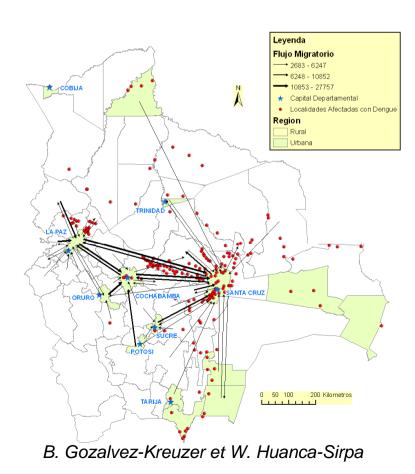


#### Maison à risque majeur

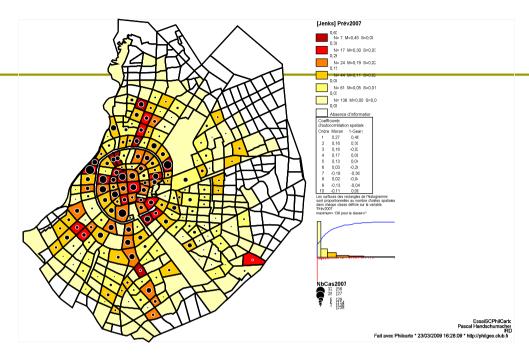


## Spatial variability of dengue in Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia). ANR Program EPIDENGUE

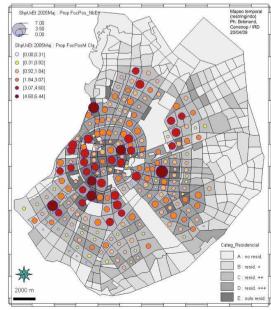




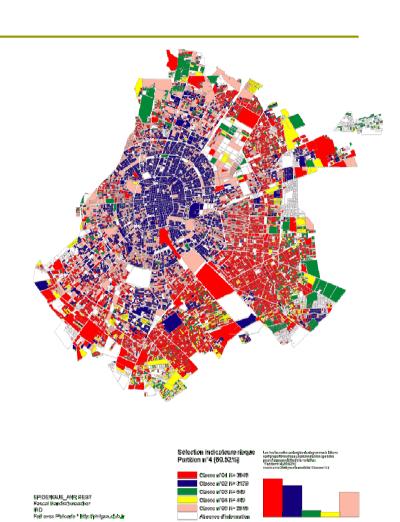
## Dengue as urban diversity revelator in Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia)



Mean number of positif Aedes focus



Source: Ph. Brémond



### Seeking causes and processes

- A generalized but heterogeneous entomological risk
- An heterogeneous distribution of illness in man
- Reveals urban complexity
- = > need to reconstruct urban profiles at the right scales
- Seeking processes underlying spaces at risk construction

### Conclusion

- Disease spatial heterogeneity and circulation reveals territories disparities
- The fundamental levels are defining the geographic systems, articulating various risk factors in specific complex systems
- Defining the weakest level in the different systems helps us how to act to reduce the risk upstream the disease by identify the right levers