INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE WORK

Schistosimiasis is an endemic disease of high world wide prevalence. In the tropics and subtropics more than 200 million individuals harbour the infection, while relatively more than 600 million persons are exposed to infection. (W H O 1980). In Egypt, approximately 20 million individual, or nearly half of the population, are infected with Schistosoma mansoni and or Schistosoma haematobium (AbdelWahab et al., 1979).

Several studies have confirmed that the prevalence of this infection is increasing in rural Egypt (El-Alamy and Cline 1977 , Abdel-Wahab et al., 1980) and is also spreading to areas where it was not previouly recorded (Ayad, 1974). Recently, in Upper Egypt (in Sohag) S. mansoni has also been found by Kabil, et al., (1986) . Program designed to combate this disease regarding enviromental control are not always available for all counteries. In addition, uptill now, there is no prophylactic drug that can prevent the infection, even the available schistosomicidal therapeutics are not completely free from hazardous effects.

In the present time, more efforts are directed to study the immunological aspects of schistosomiasis. It is now confirmed by several workers that eosinophils play one of