

Up to the 17th July 1898, then, Kutiyána and Porbandar were the only places in Káthiáwár where indigenous plague had appeared. But the spread was destined to become much wider. On the 17th July 1898 a new town appears, viz., Sardárgadh with 2 cases—1 death; and the following week Bantwa, ultimately the worst infected of all, reports 19 cases—8 deaths, indigenous. Two weeks later (11th August 1898) Saláya is added to the list; and on 27th August 1898, Khambália. Thus the disease gradually spread, till, on 2nd November 1898, thirteen places suffered from indigenous plague. The following table shows the gradual spread:—

Town or Village.	Jurisdiction.	Date of first imported or indigenous case.	Source of infection.
Porbandar ... ..	Porbandar ... ..	17th February 1898 ... ..	Bombay (probably).
Kutiyána ... ..	Junágadh ... ..	19th " " " " " "	Do.
Sardárgadh ... ..	Sardárgadh ... ..	17th July " " " " " "	Kutiyána (probably).
Bantwa ... ..	Do. ... ..	24th " " " " " "	Bombay. } (Uncertain Porbandar } which).
Saláya ... ..	Navánagar ... ..	11th August " " " " " "	Unknown.
Khambália ... ..	Do. ... ..	27th " " " " " "	Do.
Nakra ... ..	Sardárgadh ... ..	10th September " " " " " "	Bantwa.
Sodhásli ... ..	Navánagar ... ..	11th " " " " " "	Unknown.
Sodásála ... ..	Do. ... ..	12th " " " " " "	Do.
Buri ... ..	Bantwa ... ..	24th " " " " " "	Bantwa.
Khámblia ... ..	Sardárgadh ... ..	6th October " " " " " "	Do.
Khákharda ... ..	Navánagar ... ..	31st " " " " " "	Unknown.
Dánta ... ..	Do. ... ..	2nd November " " " " " "	Do.

From the 24th July 1898, the town of Bantwa, some 14 miles from Kutiyána, figured amongst the infected towns. As the scourge struck it with peculiar severity, practically decimating the population in a little over two months, it perhaps deserves more than a passing notice,

Bantwa is a town with a population of some 8,500, lying about 20 miles to the west of Junágadh. Plague was first reported there on the 24th July 1898, although there is little doubt that cases had been occurring for a month or two previous to this date, and that concealment was largely practised. If this was the case, the large numbers attacked are easily understood.

Its origin is very uncertain. It may have been imported from Bombay, or it may have been imported from Porbandar, or, again, from Kutiyána. But the latter is most improbable. Colonel Hunter inclines to the former theory:—

“There is a difficulty in accepting Mr. Antia’s conclusions that the plague was introduced from Porbandar, inasmuch as that there have been no cases either among Memons or Sonis at Porbandar. It is more likely, therefore, that the disease was imported from Bombay in spite of the observation camps at Porbandar and Verával. The information on this subject where there are no registers of death is never reliable.”

Captain H. G. Carnegy, Assistant Political Agent, and Khán Bahádur H. J. Antia, Deputy Assistant Political Agent, were sent at once to the spot and set to work without delay. Two hospitals and two camps were erected some 300 yards on each side of the town by the 1st August, Hospital Assistants being placed in charge. Segregation and disinfection were also started. About the middle of August, Lieutenant R. S. Pottinger relieved Captain Carnegy who returned to Rájkot. Dr. Vaishnav (the Junágadh State Doctor) and Dr. Chubb (sent from Bombay at the request of the Shethias) arrived shortly after and extended the operations inaugurated by Captain Carnegy. Colonel Hunter and Major W. H. Burke,