

tigation concerning the geographic distribution of urinary cancer in this endemic area found that there existed "high-risk villages", "low-risk villages" and "villages with sporadic cases". From 1981 to 1985, the annual (age-adjusted) incidence of urinary bladder cancer in the high-risk villages of the BFD endemic area were as high as more than 100 males (4 villages)

and 100 females (5 villages) per 100,000 population. However, there was no case of urinary bladder cancer found in the so-called low-risk villages. The only findings of the geographic characteristics among the high-risk villages in this investigation identified that the urinary bladder cancer in this endemic area mostly occurred along 2 rivers and near the sea-side

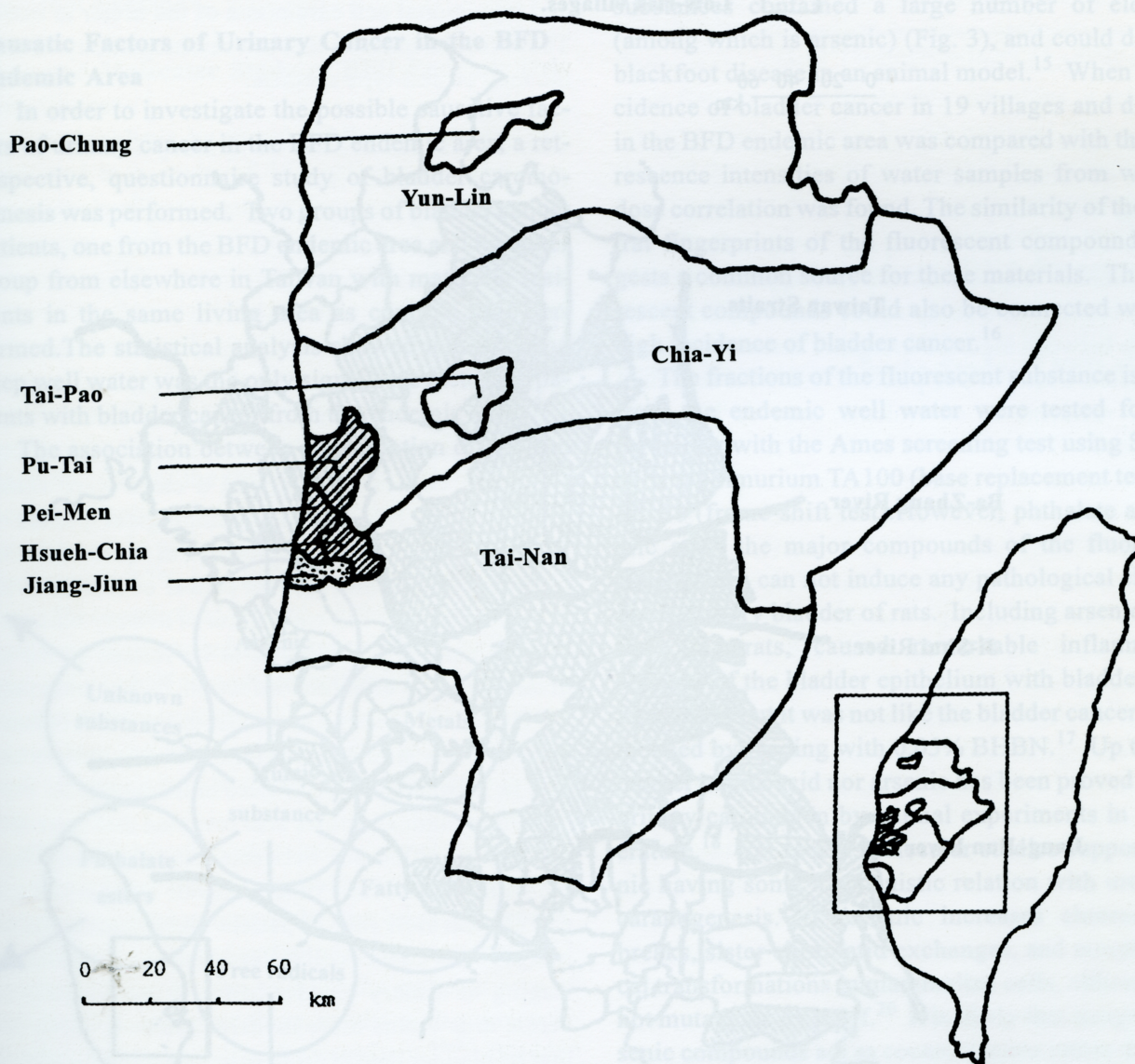


Fig. 1. Geographic location of the investigated districts in Taiwan

-  Blackfoot disease (BFD) endemic area (Sample residents: Group A, Group B).
-  Neighboring area of the (BFD)-endemic (Sample residents: Group C).
-  Non-endemic area elsewhere in Taiwan (Sample residents: Group D).