

NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

MICHAEL SERVICE CHIDES US GENTLY FOR BEING SURPRISED AT HIS ARTICLE ON LARVAL LIGHT TRAPS (FAMA *Journal* Vol 54 (1): 1983) and points out that they have been around for some time, though little used. He adds that the best field results with the tacky underwater larval traps are to be obtained by adding an underwater light source, such as a chemical light-stick. He published on this, too, in 1984 (*Entomol. Exp. Appl.* 35: 27-32). Doesn't that make all those little mustard seed sprout?

But Dr. Service also appends a sad note: Dr. T. RAMACHANDRA RAO, "for many years doyen of Indian culicidologists," who was well known to all of us and who worked closely in the 1940's with PAUL RUSSELL, died at the age of 84 on 5 November 1984, in Bangalore. Mike adds, "I believe his last scientific publication was the book, *The Anophelines of India*, the corrected edition of which appeared in 1984."

FROM THE ANTIPODES MARSHALL LAIRD SENDS US A COMMENTARY ENTITLED, "Where Have All the Big Ones Gone?", as follows:

"William Fordyce Mavor (1758-1837), fortified by holy orders and an honorary LL.D. from the University of Aberdeen, was the compiler of many educational books. One of these, first published in 1800 (my copy is the 9th edition, Longmans etc., London, 1816, so the work sold well!), bore the title, 'THE ELEMENTS OF NATURAL HISTORY, Chiefly intended for the use of schools and young persons.' Devoting almost a page to the Diptera, he gave half this space to mosquitoes; from which countless British young persons learnt of the horrors of exposure to our bread-and-butter insects in the less populous and uncultivated regions of America 'where pungent pain is inflicted by Culcidae of all sizes,' and 'some of the species measure several inches in length.'" Obviously, "Whopperhinus?" says Marshall.

A NOTE IN THE NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM ATTRIBUTED BY NOAA TO A "W. GRAHAM" says that Delaware Sea Grant scientists are working closely with state marsh managers to determine whether the mummichog, a salt marsh fish, can "surplant" the use of insecticides in controlling mosquitoes. This effort is "linked to open marsh management, a mosquito control technique that uses natural predators rather than insecticides to control mosquitoes in coastal areas." (This sounds as if W. Graham is new to this stuff.)

Anyway, "Mummichogs, *Fundulus heteroclitus*, are natural predators of mosquito larvae. The issues in question have been: 1) the adequacy of these fish as predators of the larvae, and 2) their ability to survive and reproduce in physically altered marshes.

"To date, Sea Grant scientists have shown that the mummichog can consume an amount of mosquito larvae equivalent to 15% to 30% of its body weight on a daily basis. In addition, the spawning and reproduction of the fish are not affected by physical alterations designed to enhance mosquito control in marshes. Besides eliminating the need to use ecologically dangerous chemicals on marshes, the State of

Delaware estimates that over \$200,000 per year in insecticide application costs can be saved if open marsh water management is adopted statewide." WE hope that a means of rearing sufficient mummichogs for release can be found if they hope to supplant the techniques of IPM already in place.

IN OTHER NEWS FROM ALL OVER TOMMY MULHERN SENT US A BATCH OF CLIPPINGS FROM MOSCOW ACCOMPANIED BY A BUCK SLIP in French, English and German, all of which are quite clear but none of which interpret the Institute's title, which is not translated. Anyway, it's Academic something, CCCP, and Institut of something that looks like "national information." The POINT IS that they are abstracting a good many articles from our own MN and rather fully at that, which is nice. And recognizes our value, even under the old name, as we'd be glad to quote, except we're not sure Boyd Printing Co. wants to root out its Cyrillic fonts. The institute's name is probably on our corporate Subscribers List but that wasn't published in last March's issue and we've lost our older one.

OUR LIST DOES CONTAIN, THOUGH, THE NAME OF ALUN TUDOR REES, AN AMCA'er in England, who is a member of the Mosquito Discussion Group that held its 7th meeting at the Royal Army Medical College in April last year to discuss the British Mosquito Recording Scheme. This group is comprised of lady and gentleman entomologists of the RAMC, the British Museum, the Wellcome Research Labs and various universities and civic entities. One of the mosquito records was of *Culex molestus* in the isle of Jersey, a first; Dr. Rees then reported on his studies on OP resistance of *Aedes aegypti* in Puerto Rico and its genetic evolution.

THE MACARTHUR FOUNDATION ANNOUNCED LAST OCTOBER IN CHICAGO THAT IT WAS FUNDING A \$20,000,000 RESEARCH PROGRAM ON MALARIA AND PROMISED THAT ITS GRANTS WOULD CONTINUE BEYOND THE FIVE YEAR PERIOD OF THIS ONE. That is major good news not only for the underdeveloped "third world" countries where malaria is still taking the major toll but for us, who besides being "curious" about it also travel around and do, after all, inhabit the same "world." Dr. Jonas Salk, in the conference called to announce the grant, said that molecular biological research will provide us some day with the key to control of parasitic disease. He pointed out that malaria remains a problem because parasites have developed methods of slipping by the body's immune systems, changing their structures and even mimicking host tissues. The programs will be conducted by Stanford, Yale, Johns Hopkins, Harvard, New York and Columbia universities, the University of California at Berkeley, General Hospital at Cambridge, Mass., Case Western Reserve, the Hall Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne, the National Polytechnic Institute of Mexico City and the Weizmann Institute of Science at Rehovoth, Israel. This genetic research stuff is certainly making a lot more exciting our de-

clining years and we look for big things from those whose years are still ascending. Researchers into the virus thought to cause the increasingly threatening AIDS, for instance, have found that that virus can enter the host cells and steal genetic material for its own mutation. Who knows but that malaria might be trapped by the same genetic juggling being tried to forstall that burglary?

DR. BILL BICKLEY WROTE FROM THE XVII INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ENTOMOLOGY LAST AUGUST to say that there were a good many AMCA'ers there but since NONE of them has sent us any report, that's all we can tell you about it. Bill also sent us the foregoing note about the MacArthur grant, though, so that lets HIM off. He and Ye Ed, both of whom send us a lot of stuff, told us in Washington last November that SUSAN McIVER is now professor and new Department Chairman at the Ontario Agricultural College of the University of Guelph (in Ontario). And HARRY SAVAGE is now with the Walter Reed Biosystematics Unit, along with LtCol BRUCE HARRISON, E. L. PEYTON, YIAU-MIN HAUNG AND RALPH HARBACH. We wrote all this down on a paper napkin so we look to Ye Ed to correct spellings and titles. We KNOW Harry was a Dr. and Ralph is a captain, but these things are so changeable. HARRY STAGE used to solve it all by calling *everyone* "Doctor." Doctor, everyone? (But we won't call people "persons" unless we're ORDERED to.)

TOMMY MULHERN SENT US TEAR SHEETS OF THE NEW WHO PUBLICATION "Bibliography on Pathogens of Medically Important Arthropods: 1981" by DONALD ROBERTS, RICHARD DAoust AND STEPHEN WRAIGHT. (VBC/83.1). This bibliography abstracted approximately 550 publications; Dr. Richard Nolan collaborated in *Glossina*. It's annotated; THAT appeals to the Lexicographer in us and should add vastly to its usefulness to current workers.

HELEN SOLLERS-RIEDEL is leaving the NIH grant program, by the way, and the Reviews go with her, as she "paddles her own canoe." We have a feeling Helen is a white-water enthusiast. *Salute*, Elana!

FRANK RADOVSKY, WHO IS EDITOR OF THE DISTINGUISHED "Journal of Medical Entomology" and Associate Editor of the "Annual Review of Entomology," has been named by the Trustees of the Bishop Museum (Honolulu) to the L. A. Bishop Distinguished Chair of Zoology. And MAC TIDWELL has been named Director of the International Center for Public Health Research, at the University of South Carolina at McClellanville. Mac was previously at The Citadel and a one-time teacher and researcher on disease transmission and the taxonomy of vectors in Latin America.

DAVE D. CHADEE'S MOVE INVOLVES ACTUAL TRAVEL, QUITE A BIT OF IT. He left the Insect Vector Control Division of the Trinidad Ministry of Health and Environment in October last year to go to the Department of Biological Sciences of Dundee University, where he works with Professor P. S. Corbet. BRUCE ELDRIDGE, too, made a big climatic change, going from Oregon to work for a year with GEORGE CRAIG and LEONARD

MUNSTERMAN on the biosystematics of *Aedes communis* complex at Notre Dame.

ALONG WITH REPORTING ON THE SERIOUS RISE IN MALARIA IN NATAL and *mechanical* transmission of Rift Valley fever by *Aedes* and the increase in dengue in Honduras, a fall issue of the military's TIB gave some illuminating definitions of imprecise quantities:

Phrase	Absolute Value
one	1
a few	3 to 5
quite a few	3 to 5
many	3 to 8
about half a dozen	4 to 8
a lot	6 to 10
around ten	7 to 13
a few hundred	75 to 125
most	10% to 20%
a majority	50% + 1
a clear majority	51%

Of course, these apply more to election night reporting than OUR operations but still . . .

HISTORY BUFFS MAY WISH TO KNOW THAT IN THE DECEMBER 1962 ISSUE OF MN, WORD WAS BEING GIVEN OUT ON THE UPCOMING 50TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE NEW JERSEY MEA and the 19th Annual Meeting of AMCA, TO BE held jointly at Atlantic City. Subjects were to range from biology and control of mosquitoes to safety, to relationship to wildlife conservation and marine organisms. The announcement said that "No one concerned with mosquito research and control can afford to miss it." And THAT was certainly true of the 50th Anniversary meeting of AMCA with the New Jersey organization *this* year of 1985. About the same topics, but now with subdivisions on *Ba*, genetic engineering and IPM. See next issue.

PHIL KEATHLEY HAS JOINED JOE MOKRY IN TURNING INTO AN INC, in this case, "J. Phillip Keathley, Inc." with an Agricultural Services Division to do contract research in spray drift monitoring, environmental impact studies, residue sampling and the like. And he's now at 25330 S. Ruess Road, in Ripon, California 95366, which is some ways southeast of 94519.

GORGAS MEMORIAL LABORATORY, WHICH STARTED AN HEROIC REORGANIZATION AND REPLACEMENT PROGRAM program nearly two years ago when a crisis in support occurred, has now completed the move and is all under one roof. What is also under the roof is a highly complicated system of air-conditioning and filtration units which will provide sophisticated variations in temperature, air purity, and protection against the escape of study organisms and is undoubtedly a first for Panama. One of the interesting studies reported by GML is a virological examination of migratory marine birds, in which SLE virus antibodies were found in adult brown pelicans (12 of 71 tested), bluefooted boobies (2 of 45), fledgling olivaceous cormorants (1 of 66) and frigate birds (2 of 19). Not enough to qualify as "most" in our schema above but still enough to warrant study.

AND IN LINE WITH THE SEVERAL ITEMS ON VIROLOGICAL AND GENETIC RESEARCH WE KEEP COMING ACROSS IS

one on Alzheimer's Disease, which may have been around but is only now being brought to the fore. In Alzheimer's, it has been found that acetylcholine lack has a causal relationship. Does this portend a rehabilitation of organophosphorus insecticides? No, it's not meant to be funny.

PREXY GIL CHALLET'S ORANGE COUNTY HAD THE UNWELCOME EXPERIENCE OF FINDING SLE ANTIBODIES IN THEIR SENTINEL CHICKENS this year and later, in their collections of *Culex tarsalis*. Southern California had a few cases last year, after a long gap since 1963, but the virus has seldom been found in coastal, let alone metropolitan, areas. Coming late in the season, after a period of higher than normal temperatures, this may, of course, be the well known blessing-in-disguise if it leads to increased funding for surveillance which will clearly be indicated. IN NEW JERSEY WITH EEE SURVEILLANCE, *Cs. melanura* was both common and virus-carrying in areas near equine cases yet failed to show sero-conversion in sentinel flocks in the area. It seems as if mosquitoes on both coasts may be up to something, doesn't it?

MID-ATLANTIC MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION'S TENTH ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE (CAN it have been that long?) came in via Bick just as we typed this up (in December) and since it'll be held 20 to 22 February it's been and gone as you read this. However, it sounded so wonderful to a one-time Confederate, aside from the purely scientific aspects, that we want to tell you about it. The meetings, at the Sheraton on Wil-

mington Island, were within sight and touring distance of Historic Savannah and although probably too early for the famed azaleas (were they?), included a riverboat cruise "for biting time and the banquet." We MUST hear more of this! Anyone?

The scientific side was impeccable and it, too, had a tour . . . of Historic Chatham County operations, an area which once hosted MCWA and CDC. The program was well-laden with discussions of marsh-land operations, control of dredge spoil and ditches, storm water management and the like, but also with discussions of other control measures in sensitive environmental areas, use of *Lagenidium* fungus, computers and benefit-cost analysis and other up-to-date things.

PERHAPS BECAUSE OUR SELF-ANOINTED ENVIRONMENTALISTS (INCLUDING, WE ARE ASHAMED TO SAY, OUR OWN BERKELEY (CALIF.) CO-OP) HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT PESTICIDES ARE NO LONGER NECESSARY AND GARLIC AND STUFF WILL WORK, OMAIMA ABU-SHADY and cohorts ran some tests on old fashioned repellents like Citronella, as reported in the *Journal of the Egyptian Society of Parasitology*, Vol. 13, No. 1 (1983). They tested natural plant juices, vegetable oils, paraffin and glycerine, etc., and some "anti-rheumatic lineaments" and citronella, dimethyl phthalate and creosote. They found the best repellent against *Culex pipiens* was dimethyl phthalate, followed closely by lemon juice and with *Anopheles pharoensis* it was lemon juice hands down. Are you listening, Florida?

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