

NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

WELL, NOW. . . LET'S SEE. NOT MUCH IN THE OLD MAILBAG THIS QUARTER. BUT SOME FOLKS *have* BEEN WRITING TO THE SOVE NEWSLETTER AND WE'LL CRIB A BIT FROM THEM. GLEN COLETT. Frinstance, wrote about the early season in Utah and it was a doozy. Among other things, grasshoppers were so plentiful that the Utah MAD's were asked to pitch in and help with their control. Glen said it left them a bit bemused, pondering the connection between mosquito and grasshopper control. Well, you won't get bitten by mosquitoes sitting in the shade of the old apple tree if, as in OUR yard in Mendocino, the grasshoppers have eaten off all the leaves.

MIKE SERVICE reported that he had been in Zambia ("formerly Rhodesia" . . . not Zimbabwe? . . . we get those places confused) for two months and was in Pennsylvania at the International Conference on Biology and Population Management of Blackflies. Is population management what you call it if you don't get good control?

Lyme disease, which is getting a lot of attention these days, popping up unexpectedly, was discussed in a *New York Times* article last January, of particular interest because most of the 434 cases were in Westchester County, no longer terribly rural but still deer-ridden. Society of Vector Ecologists members were asked if they had any ideas on tick control other than the killing of the deer being contemplated by New York. When the marijuana-raising hippie element took over OUR county, the deer population was sharply reduced, and tick bites, too. However, the fact that you can't walk in the woods without risking a load of buckshot may have been a factor.

GEORGE O'MEARA SENT US A SPRIGHTLY BUT THOROUGHLY SERIOUS AND SCIENTIFIC PAPER he published in the *Florida Entomologist* entitled, "Gonotrophic Interactions in Mosquitoes; Kicking the Blood-feeding Habit." George points out that when a female doesn't choose to feed on blood (either permanently or occasionally), the burden of accruing materials for egg production is shifted to the larvae and indicates a delicate balance determined by availability of blood hosts and larval food. George tied this in with reduced adult flight (or reduced host areas worth flying for) and suggested study of the larval ability to utilize the environment fully.

THE CALIFORNIA MORBIDITY REPORT ON MOSQUITO-BORNE ENCEPHALITIS SURVEILLANCE bore down heavily on surveillance of the number of cases rather than our kind of surveillance, but it did mention that mosquito population indices and laboratory tests of the virus activity in mosquitoes and birds will help focus control on the areas of most need. However, not waiting to be prodded by the MD's. GIL CHALLET and his Orange County MAVD is cooperating with the University of California, Irvine, in a three to four year program of research on environmental management; this is now completing its first year with a fine prognosis for success, as the doctors say.

THE MASSACHUSETTS MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY REPORT on the other hand has a full paragraph detailing personal protective measures against mosquitoes and points out that regardless of the prophylactic regimen employed, it is still possible to contract malaria unless these personal measures are observed. It also reports that the combined use of chloroquin and Fansidar® (pyrimethamine-sulfadoxine) has resulted in adverse cutaneous reactions, several of them *fatal*! We think we'd rather use repellent and mosquito nets.

DR. RICHARD LEE BERRY, MEDICAL ENTOMOLOGIST WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, writes to announce the winner of the contest he set up at the meetings in Atlantic City where he invited one and all to guess the number of *Aedes triseriatus* eggs on an ovitrap cloth. (We were too chicken to try it.) Those who weren't too chicken or had enough experience . . . or bravura . . . to try it, guessed from 227 to ——— 80,000! (whew!). BOB RESTIFO and Richard performed the official count which "ranged" from 551 to 554 (if we'd been Bob and Richard, we'd have just thrown out the extra 3 in that one). Anyway, the person who came closest guessed 550! He's Dr. S. RAMALINGAM of Canadian Union College and he received an Ohio Mosquito Control Association cap, dark blue, complete with blue and white patch on which is the logo of the OMCA. Was there a little ESP there Dr. R.? A crystal ball?

MIKE CHAMBERS WHO REGRETFULLY LEFT US FOR THE FORMOSAN TERMITE, which is a formidable problem in its own right and has been thwarting the research efforts of a good many people for some time, will henceforth be at the Department of Entomology at Clemson. His address: Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina 29631 and his phone (803) 656-3137. Mike is a member, not only of AMCA but also Louisiana MCA, so we hope he won't forget old ties next spring. He also shows ESA and the American Register, but his National Pest Control Association membership will probably be called into play more from now on. The Formosan termite is especially prevalent in Hawaii, where much research goes on despite distractions. Tough, eh?

AND SPEAKING OF ARPE, BOB ALTMAN, immediate Past President, was given a plaque for his untiring and unselfish efforts, (done without compensation or reimbursement). Although it looks as if all AMCA'ers who are entomologists are also Registered Professional ones, we should note that JIMMY OLSON, retiring director, was also awarded a plaque; California Chapter members JOHN SHANAFELT and EARL MORTENSON were honored by their chapter and a group photograph of the Chesapeake Chapter reveals not only FRED SANTANA, who was coordinator for the spring field trip, but also DALE PARRISH, JOHN KLIEWER and BILL WYMER. 'Course, Bill's Executive Manager and Editor of the *News* so that hardly counts.

DON PLETSCH WAS ON ONE OF HIS TRIPS LAST SPRING, THIS TIME TO FORT COLLINS, where he visited with DR. WM. OWEN, who was C.O. of the 42nd Malaria Survey Unit on Guadalcanal. Dr. Owen also has done distinguished investigations into mosquito sensory perceptions and internal anatomy and authored "Mosquitoes of Minnesota."

Don also found that an intended visit to BRUCE FRANCY was "a bit difficult" as Bruce is on sabbatical in Sweden. DICK DARSIE was on board, "hyperactively trying to clean up manuscripts and resolve moving problems" before making the move to The Wedge and Mac and Margaret TIDWELL's vector control training activities.

Don writes, too, "Although Dr. MARTIN YOUNG may be more active in the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene than in AMCA, he certainly is a notable member of our clan. Many of us know him as a major investigator of the susceptibility of North American anophelines to Korean malaria parasites. But his persisting efforts to resolve malaria problems did not terminate with his USPHS career and his 10 year directorship of the Gorgas Memorial Lab in Panama. One of the latest papers (with JAI K. NAYAR of the Vero Beach lab) is "susceptibility of *Anopheles punctipennis* and other Florida mosquitoes to *Plasmodium berghei*." J. Parasitology 70(1):192-194, 1984.)

Enclosed also was a Xerox from an unidentified *Journal* with a rather good photo of Dr. Young, an extensive *curriculum vitae* . . . or should we say an extensive writeup of his extensive C.v.? . . . and notice of his being recipient to another Doctor of Science degree. Listed: Johns Hopkins, Emory and Michigan.

THERE WAS A SCIENTIFIC SAFARI TO INDONESIA THAT SOUNDED LIKE AS MUCH FUN AS A SILENT RELIGIOUS RETREAT (and if that doesn't sound like a solidly satisfactory way to spend a week-end, you ain't been on one). Anyhow, according to the *Christian Science Monitor* last March, "the locals in north Sulawesi have seen little like it: Grown *orang puteh* or 'white people' chasing around with giant nets after butterflies. Others staring for hours into stagnant water holes . . ." This was the British Royal Entomological Society and the Indonesian Institute of Sciences expedition, which was slated to last "through the year and involve more than 100 scientists from 27 countries." According to the *Monitor*, because of the expectable bureaucratic mix-up, the base camp didn't get built, so everyone had to share one long hut on the edge of the jungle with "several thousand lethal-looking insects." Of course, the coconut rhinoceros beetle looks pretty lethal and sounds it too when it hits your screen at night . . . or the lamp, if you haven't a screen.) So not to worry, Surely at least ONE AMCA'er went on this junket? How about a nice write-up? We're consumed with curiosity!

SOUTH COOK COUNTY'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1984 WAS AS USUAL A SLICK JOB and we hope they printed up enough for public distribution. With all the info about what they do and the great pictures of lab and field and the section on what the PUBLIC can do, it deserves a place in every taxpayer's home library.

GETTING BACK TO SOUTH EAST ASIA FOR A MOMENT, YE ED SENT US A COPY OF A PUBLICATION reproducing an item from the Kuala Lumpur *New Straits Times* for last January 24, p. 5. After a cogent discussion of the mosquito menace, dengue fever and hemorrhagic fever and like that, the final paragraph packed a wallop: "According to the Destruction of Disease Bearing Insects Act, 1975, any person found allowing the breeding of the aedes mosquito larvae can be fined up to \$1,000 or jailed up to three months or both.

"For a second or subsequent offence, a person can be fined double the amount or jailed for one year or both."

wow.

HARRY WEST HAS AN ANSWER FOR A PROBLEM THAT BUGS MOST OF US AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER . . . OF un-bugs us, really . . . and he answers a question I've had for a long time whenever I see the gadgets advertised in a gadget wish book. Writing in *Skeeter* about light bulbs burning out in light traps, he points out that this burn-out is a real pain because it screws up the population data. He says, "There is, however, a ray of hope that shines through the eternal darkness. The answer lies in converting the trap to run the bulb off DC current instead of AC (No, let's not see any hands yet!)" Harry says that the little discs that they advertise to extend bulb life do this, and that "unlike many (or most) things advertised in this wonderful world, they really work." We're convinced. Thanks, Harry.

WE OPENED WITH WARMED-OVER SOVE; WE'LL CLOSE WITH SOME FRESH OFF THE STOVE SOVE. . . . THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL MEETING, which was held 28 June in facilities of the California Department of Public Health, provided by GAIL GROTHAUS, consisted of a program put together by CHUCK HANSEN. CDR. HERB BOLTON gave a roundup of the activities of the Navy's Disease Vector, Ecology and Control Centers, including discussions of work on Okinawa, in Japan and in the Philippines that made us homesick. Alas, while the two former have come up in terms of malaria and encephalitis control, the situation in the Philippines continues to be grim. . . . and this is an area that WHO considered to be in a holding situation not too long ago. And it seems the Marines are as obdurate as ever in terms of sissy stuff like taking precautions, but are gradually and grudgingly being won over. (HE didn't say this. . . . we do, remembering our own experiences and comparing them with what he described. *Pace* USMC.)

Herb also gave some interesting news on mefloquin (resistance showing up in Indonesia and the southernmost Philippines and we haven't even got to it yet) and resmethrin showing promise as a repellent. The Navy is opening up a PMU in Lima, Peru, a chance to find out if there's a cousin of *Aedes sierrensis* in Machu Pichu, perhaps? And he handed out copies of their spectacularly thorough and readable "Navy Department Guide to Malaria Prevention and Control." During lunch with him and with LT WILLIAM KANOUR, newly on board at DVECC, STEVE BALLING, the Center's Training Department head, CHUCK HANSEN and HARRY SCOTT, of Alameda County

Vector Control Services, we covered these things and everything else from ULV to light traps.

After lunch, RON KEITH covered the use of the Fay non-light trap for trapping *Ae. sierrensis*, BOB SCHOEPPNER showed slides of problems in using oils against various *Aedes* and we learned more about

Lyme disease, that addition to our vector-borne disease list, of which we are all suddenly aware. A very good meeting, Chuck.

That's it folks. Write us a letter, when you have a moment, eh?

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The VMCA has aided mosquito control agencies in Virginia since 1947.