

## NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

WE WELCOME DR. HAROLD C. CHAPMAN AS OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF AMCA WITH GREAT JOY AND WISH HIM GREAT SUCCESS IN BATTLING OUR MANY PROBLEMS. While we have tended over the years (and have said in this column) to regard Chappie as a perennial under-thirty, based on our initial impression of him energetically bouncing us both about the sands of Florida to the research sites of the (then Orlando) USDA laboratory, neither his experience nor his expertise has remained jejune by any means and we know he brings to the new task a wealth of both and an unabated optimistic and energetic outlook.

BRINGING BACK OTHER OLD-TIME MEMORIES IS AN ARTICLE IN *PARASITOLOGY TODAY*, (Vol. 1, No. 6, 177-179), BY GRAHAM WHITE, entitled, "Airport Malaria and Jumbo Vector Control." Graham's play on words refers, of course, to the growing menace of jumbo jets which fly from continent to continent in hours, sometimes carrying malaria-bearing mosquitoes and mosquitoes and other arthropods carrying other diseases as well. First realized with the carrying of *Anopheles gambiae* during World War II, referred to last issue, the threat was met early on by some fairly Draconian measures: pyrethrum aerosol bombs were let loose under and around the passengers and into cargo holds at every stop in many tropical areas. The military planes were particularly vigorously treated, being more vulnerable, and we well remember how the Australian health officials did (and may still) spray until the fog was too dense to see three feet through, calling out a cheery and friendly, but firm, "Cover y'r face with y'r handkie, mite." Graham covers rates and concentrations thoroughly and points out that disinfection is vital regardless of slight inconvenience. He cites two ladies who came down with falciparum malaria after a flight from London to Rome. The plane was from Africa.

DON PLETSCH SENT US A FISTFUL OF GOODIES AND FIRST AMONG THEM WAS A REPORT ON THE SEMINAR AT THE USDA LAB IN GAINESVILLE ON 23 January last. Dr. Sam Breeland was the speaker, his topic was "Mosquito Control in the Twenty-first Century" and his thought-provoking presentation was very well received indeed.

Don, who gets about some, sent us some clips from various Taiwan newspapers, chiefly the *China Post* (which is in English!) about fire-fighters, students on a field trip, and others on similar missions being critically injured by unprovoked stings from wasps. Bearing in mind the discussion of jumbo jets in Dr. Graham White's article and the increasing responsibility of mosquito abatement agencies to control ALL pests attacking people, you guys on the front lines better pray no planes are loaded with pallets bearing wasp nests. The ones we saw in Taiwan were about the size of *Blatella americana* and MUCH meaner.

At a little remove, a clipping from "Novedades de Yucatán, in February, entitled "Se buscará erradicar el

dengue de Yucatán." To this end the city of Mérida is divided into zones and there is a vigorous campaign entailing both treatment with malathion and destruction of breeding places or effective mosquito exclusion. In 1984, there were more than three thousand cases of dengue, whereas in 1985, after the campaign started, it had dropped to 70. Dr. Edgardo Martínez, citing this, said the campaign would be permanent.

While he was in Mérida, Don also visited Cancún (remember how everyone said "Where's that?" when the Presidents visited?) which has grown from 400 to more than 60,000 and counting. There is no real dengue problem in "Benito Juárez" . . . the formal Cancún jurisdiction . . . but a squatter village, irregularly turning urban, called "Colonia Puerto Juárez," has had some, and even some primary malaria, and may have to have Cancún operations extended. Terminix is the contractor of record.

Mosquito densities are being monitored by human bait catches in each of five capture stations. The collection period is one hour, once a week, beginning at sundown. The human bait captures have some obvious advantages over light traps, Don notes, in a tourist area where employees are not too highly paid and are thus willing to "sit" and they are being carried out throughout the year, but the identified material is not being fully analysed or interpreted. *Aedes taeniorhynchus* is the most abundant species (65-85%) and *Anopheles albimanus* is present (3.3-10% in 1984), and there are a very few *crucians* and *vestitiipennis*. He reports that *Wyeomyia*, *Deinocerites*, *Psorophora*, *Mansonia* appear in the catches along with the *Culex* and *Aedes*; of the latter, some 156 being *aegypti* captured at dusk during 22 months. (We hope we're not pre-publishing you, Don.)

Finally, a page of the Gainesville *Sun* of 16 February 1986, with a swell picture of DAVID DAME throwing back a prize-winning bass into the Suwannee River. David had won hands down in the competition of the Bass Masters of Gator Country, winning highest total poundage, largest fish of the day and bag limit. But darned if we'd have thrown one back! Just not a sportsman.

DR. MIKE SERVICE WRITES FROM LIVERPOOL THAT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN BRANCH OF THE SOCIETY OF VECTOR ECOLOGISTS, of which he is the first Regional Representative, will be at Montpellier in southern France from 11 to 12 September 1986. Hosts for the meeting will be the Director, DR. G. SINÈGRE and his colleagues of the Entente Inter-départemental pour la Démoustication du Littoral Méditerranéen. There will be discussions in English and French (and, likely, discussions in "franglais" as well or whatever comes to hand) and also a field trip. Those of you who may be lucky enough to be in the enchanting south of France may get advance details from Mike at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Liverpool L3 5QA, England. Bon voyage and bonne chance.

WE LIKE TO GET NOSTALGIC (YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED) BUT THERE ARE SOME LIMITS THAT SHOULD BE OBSERVED. The July-Sept. 1985 *Miasma Philatelist* reproduced on its back page a letter sent by a L. B. Hamline of the Irving Institute in Tarrytown, N.Y., to a Dr. Palmer of New York City on 12 March 1847, which you should show people who doubt that our having "controlled" malaria amounted to much outside the tropics. As well as we can make it out, he wrote, "For about three weeks I have had continuous attacks of fever Vagues and the physician of the family being called, I have taken Quinine in large doses at least three times a day, and physic in large doses every other morning. I have been placed on diet, allowed to eat nothing of greasy nature, and nothing strengthening during the time. At nights I sweat very profusely, even through a mattress into a straw bed and sometimes my upper coverlids have been wet. Under the influence of this, I have become very thin, and am daily losing my strength." He goes on with heart-rending humility to say he does not want his friend to "leave your business and come this far in the country." But he would like him to send a colleague or an assistant or at least "what medicine you may think proper." He signed the letter, "Your affectionate friend." We wonder if the doctor tried leeches.

WELL, DOCTORS KNOW BETTER NOW, GRADUALLY. The W.H.O. *Chronicle* (Vol. 39, No. 9, 1985) in reporting on malaria chemoprophylaxis for travellers, and mentioning six deaths from severe cutaneous reactions to sulfadoxine/pyremethamine taken in conjunction with chloroquin, says, "These fatal reactions confirm that no drug regimen is entirely satisfactory for the prevention of malaria." It continues, "Prevention of malaria should be based mainly on personal protection against contact with mosquitoes."

RETURNING TO THE SOUTH OF FRANCE FOR THE MOMENT, DRs. GABINAUD AND SALGADO have kindly sent us a reprint of their thoroughgoing study of the use of digitalized analysis of high altitude aerial photographs in locating the potential breeding sources of culicines and for mapping the vegetation types and locations of halomorphic soils. They found the resolution power of IRC 1/25,000 well adapted to 1/1,000 mapping and that some units could be automatically mapped so that the final mapping and analysis was much easier. If we can just get the TV weathermen to stop putting those white boundary lines on the pictures now. . . .

MANY OF YOU MAY REMEMBER THE BAT BELFRIES THAT ONCE ADORNED TEXAS AND THE CLUSTERS OF GOURDS ATOP POLES for martin nests, that once stood by every Southern farmhouse and shanty. Gainesville, Florida people are wild about the purple martins, too, and put up some pretty fancy jobs, such as we used to see in urban areas, painted and all, real nice. The City was in the business for awhile according to the *Sun* for 23 February 1986, kindly sent us by you know who, and has some twenty-seven of them, some so fancy they can be raised and lowered on the pole, like a flag. KELLIE ETHERSON, who is entomologist with Mosquito Control isn't so sure, though. "They're supposed to eat their weight in mosquitoes every day," she was quoted as saying; "We found out that they prefer

other things, like dragonflies and grasshoppers. They don't want to chase dozens of little mosquitoes when they can get the same amount of food with one dragonfly." They ARE pretty, though, anyway, and Dr. Oliver Austin remarked that the Seminoles put up the gourd houses so the martins would twitter and raise rim to warn them of strangers. One thing, though: if people want purple martins they better get on the wagon with the Nature Conservancy (Adv.). We think they're OUR birds but they come north from the lands which are now busily chopping down all the rain forests AND eroding the savannahs.

CHARLES V. COVELL, JR. at the University of Louisville (Ky) became President of the Kentucky Academy of Science at its annual meeting. Charles, besides being an AMCA'er, is curator of the insect collection of the University and has been a professor at the University since 1964.

CRAIG A. SANDOWSKI, ANOTHER AMCA'er, was selected by the Southeastern Branch of the ESA for the John Henry Comstock Award, and his picture appeared in the *Bulletin* with the announcement. His research was on *B.l.i.* (H-14) and he developed an economically feasible application system for this and monomolecular surface films, to large acreages for mosquito control.

AND MOUFIED MOUSSA MADE HEADLINES IN THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION during the conference of military entomologists at Savannah, with his report on the research being carried out at Gainesville on insect-repellent uniforms. Colonel Moussa also spoke of the ongoing research into packaging stored-product insect-proof foods for military field use, remarking on the change from C-ration cans to "flexibags." That won't be the only benefit; C-ration cans, along with beer cans, proved prime mosquito breeders in both Korea and Viet Nam. We wonder if they've tried flexibags for beer?

VMCA'S 1986 SEMINAR, HELD 27 AND 28 MARCH IN WILLIAMSBURG, HAD A MEATY AND WELL-ROUNDED PROGRAM, NO UNUSUAL THING FOR THEM. DR. DAN BROWN of the Macon County (Ill.) MAD gave an over-all view of certain *Aedes* and *Culex* and there was a National Geographic film on mosquito biology and habits. And a Dr. Lyle Barker of the University of Ohio Department of Journalism described "How to Deal Effectively with the Press." We wish we'd heard THAT. The banquet was billed as a luau, and had all sorts of seafood and "coconut pudding" (haupia?) and pineapple. . . . cooked . . . and such, which must have been good. But hey, brah! Huccum no lomilomi salmon and no three-finger POI?

THE PROGRAM WAS DUE TO A "DYNAMIC DUO" according to *Skeeter*: DREDA MCCREARY AND JOE KERTEZ, of Princess Anne-Pungo and Hampton counties, respectively.

EARL THOMAS, A LONG-TIME AMCA MEMBER, AND DIRECTOR OF THE YORK COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM for six years as well as V.P. of VMCA at the time of his death late last November, was memorialized in *Skeeter*: "His contributions and recom-

mendations to (VMCA Council) will be sorely missed. Earl Thomas will be remembered by VMCA as a man of unusual insight and forethought, a dedicated leader and a very positive force in Virginia Mosquito Control."

MARC SLAFF, NOW MEDICAL ENTOMOLOGIST FOR THE DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES AT THE MARINE RESOURCES CENTER/BOGUE BANKS (Atlantic Beach, N.C. 28512) is happily situated, if you're wondering about "Bogue Banks," at the bottom end of Cape Hatteras on (in?) Onslow Bay, where we always sort of assumed mosquito control was obviated by the wind. Or at least partly accomplished by the same. All those pictures in our childhood geography books of four-masters heeling over in the storm, about to be blown onto the reef.

DR. JESSE HOBBS, LONG-TIME AMCA'ER AND UNTIL RECENTLY WITH CDC, retired last year and is now Technical Advisor to the Ecuadorean Malaria Control Program. His address is: SNEM Casilla Postal 5810, Guayaquil, Ecuador, according to JOHN SEXTON who still is at CDC. No, we don't know what SNEM is.

AND J. H. FRANK HAS LEFT VERO BEACH (actually *did* leave a year ago to keep our time values straight) and is now at the Entomology Laboratory of the University of Florida in Gainesville. Howard's whole address includes the designation Bldg. 339, Archer Road, and it's Gainesville 32611. His letter-head adds "USA" but shux, to us mosquito types there's only ONE Gainesville.

THE POET STEPHEN SPENDER JOINS OUR RANKS (WELL, NOT FOR CONTROL EXACTLY, BUT FOR APPRECIATION OF MOSQUITOES) in the recently published "Collected Poems—1985" and we hope he won't mind our quoting him:

*Mosquito in Florence*

Florentine mosquito  
Afloat on black air  
Anchors above my head,  
Tinsel trumpet blowing  
In the tomb of my ear.

Angel of Fra Angelico  
Awakening me, dead,  
To such thoughts as make  
Midnight Judgement Day.

Tuscany Consolidated MAD, take note! (Ed.)

COLUMNISTS FROM OUR LOCAL BOYS TO JACK ANDERSON HAD A FIELD DAY OVER FEDERAL FUNDS BEING USED TO STUDY AERODYNAMICS VIA A STUDY OF MOSQUITOES. When we're 35,000 feet up we'd like them to study anything they need to, personally. Anyway, the *Cal-Report* of the California Alumni Association recently reported on a study, in part of which they observed mosquitoes and dragonflies and then constructed artificial insects of wire, balsa wood and epoxy, all chosen for the proper densities, and plastic wings. They found that originally wings served not for flight but to heat up the insect, then performed a "functional shift" as they grew longer through the generations

until insects could glide. *Their* study was financed by two private foundations. (Pace Republicans.)

GEORGE CRAIG, JR., BRUCE ELDRIDGE, LEW NIELSEN, TOM SCOTT AND BOB WASHINO are on a new American Committee on Medical Entomology, we were told by those who attended the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene conclave in Miami. These mosquito types pop up everywhere nowadays. Of course, PhD IS far older than MD. Still. . . . (We'd be charmed to hear more about this subversive infiltration.)

WE'RE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THE REIGNING PHILOSOPHY THAT IF YOU TRIP OVER YOUR OWN FEET LOOK AROUND AND FIND SOMEONE AND SUE. Well, it happened to GIL CHALLET in December when the mother of a boy who had what she said (but the Health Department *didn't* agree) was St. Louis type encephalitis, entered a suit against the Orange County (Calif.) MAD for permitting it. Under California law, an MAD can levy a charge for potential benefit from a program as well as for actual, and can do so when a mosquito outbreak threatens public health and safety. They can also levy *service charges* for surveillance and control. We'd put a light trap in the lady's yard. And raise her "charges."

SIGMA XI'S AMERICAN SCIENTIST THINKS SCIENTISTS SHOULD BEGIN TO ACT LIKE SPORTS TYPES OF WHOM WE'VE HEARD SO MUCH LATELY. Not in drugs but in perks. They ran a cartoon showing a scientist in a white coat facing down an administrator with "I want \$400,000 a year, a bonus for each step that leads to a new product and a five-year contract . . . or trade me to another lab." We've often thought (but not very seriously) that a strike would work wonders in mid-summer to get more funds for mosquito control people. You can't sue strikers.

WE'D ALSO LIKE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT GIL CHALLET'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST OPOSSOM DISEASE. We hope Gil is planning to bring a full report on this to New Orleans and if he does we'll share it. What, Gil, IS opossum disease? Is it catching? Is it vector-borne? (So far, we've only thought of them in connection with sweet potatoes.) In addition to educating US, Gil's District has had a very active school program, embracing some 981 4th, 5th and 6th graders at ten schools, as well as handing out study materials for six more. They also hand out awards of merit for high school farm sanitation programs and in February reported four of them with perfect scores! Good going, Gil.

LARRY LACEY AND BURRELL SMITTLE PUBLISHED ILLUMINATING PAPERS ON *B.l.i.* and *B. sphaericus* in the December issue of the *Bulletin of the Society of Vector Ecologists* in relation to gamma radiation and storage temperatures and pH. In California, where the resident population of True Believer zealots is high, there has lately been considerable clamor for use of "natural" control measures while other True Believers have as adamantly insisted that NOTHING in the way of altered biological materials should even approach a water supply. But of course gamma rays ARE radiation, aren't they? So perhaps the TB's will neutralize each other before they get to US.