

NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

PERHAPS SOME OF YOU WERE FASCINATED, AS WE WERE, TO READ ABOUT THE MAN WHO WAS SCRAPING THE [adrenalin?] SWEAT FROM HIS PET TOADS and smoking it, when dried, to achieve a high. The atropine connection. Did you see the follow-up? The big, bold DEA in combination with a California multicounty "Drug Enforcement Team," apparently maddened by their inability to stop the entry and use of cocaine, have cracked down full force on the guy. Yessir. Years and years in jail called for. This all happened in Calaveras County, which you may remember Mark Twain mentioning, and the toads were imported from Arizona. (Remember, here, the hassle over using insecticides that might harm the endangered species of toad if it was the endangered species, only no one was sure if it was.) When *these* toads were to be sent home by an alarmed Fish and Wildlife, Arizona didn't want them back. Might have been altered by the experience, they feared. So watch those organophosphates.

LAST AUGUST, OUR TROOPS IN SOMALIA, IN AN AREA FAR TOO UNSTABLE TO APPLY THE MEASURES HITHERTO USEFUL IN VIET NAM AND KOREA, got good mosquito protection from the use of deet and permethrin, as reported by CARL SCHRECK and DANIEL HAILE in *Agricultural Research*. Of course, there were instant protests from environmental and human rights groups over exposing people to chemicals *in their clothing and without their consent*.

AND AS WE LEAVE 1993, LET US RECORD THAT CLAUDE SCHMIDT AND MRS. SCHMIDT were in Suisse having a wonderful time, visiting the ancestral land and (no doubt) WHO in Geneva, from which he sent us a postcard view of the *ponts des Bergues et du Mont Blanc*, that three-pronged wonder that touches the *Ile Rousseau* in midlake, over water so blue in the picture you'd swear it was touched up if you hadn't been there.

AND E.I.D. OF MONTPELLIER, WHOSE ANNUAL REPORT IS ALWAYS SUCH A BEAUTY, sent us all, "*Meilleurs vœux pour la nouvelle année.*" They sent it in three languages, but like addresses, it sounds better in French.

AND GENE GERBERG WAS ELECTED AN HONORARY MEMBER OF ESA IN THEIR ANNUAL

AWARDS. Along with his *curriculum vitae*, too long, too honorific, and too widespread geographically to detail here, the ESA noted his service as prexy of the Chesapeake Chapter of ARPE and his many good deeds for us and that he is still adjunct prof both of U of Florida and the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences.

AND WHILE WE'RE BEING SO FRENCH . . . HAVE YOU GUESSED WHAT *Le Maringouin* means? LMCA's Newsletter, that is. LUCAS TERRACINA took time out from his no-kidding back-breaking duties holding AMCA together to write us that "Maringouin is a Cajun French word meaning mosquito. There is even a town in south Louisiana bearing the name. The LMCA adopted the name *Le Maringouin* for its newsletter in September 1970." Thanks Lucas!!

IN *LEM*, MATT YATES REPORTED HAPPILY ON THE SUCCESS OF THEIR ANNUAL MEETING WHERE OVER 100 PEOPLE SHOWED UP, as counted at dinner—of course, that MAY have been the Louisiana food. But LAMAR MEEK had put together a 52-paper program. From that they moved sturdily on with plans for the 1994 meeting, a joint affair with Texas, to be held in Lake Charles, 17 through 19 October, and a workshop slated for early March in Alexandria, which included a session on "*Pilez* mosquito week," a PR program. (Why not "*Pilez les maringouin*" week?)

In the same issue, Texas A&M had a report calling themselves "Babylon on the Brazos"; they reported on a none-the-less very creditable collection of research projects, as well as what they labeled "Alchemy and Magic." We guess the Creationists at the Texas Textbook Repository are getting some licks in and of course in conjunction with the Creationists now making headway in California textbookland, that means the whole country's schoolbooks. Look for an increase in demands for planting marigolds for mosquito control.

GIL CHALLET'S ORANGE COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT REPORTED NO SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THEIR PROGRAM FROM THE FIRES that swept over homes in Laguna while the more spectacular Malibu fires devastated the county to their north. The educational material they include with each monthly report covered mites in January. Not the ones we're already concerned with in re

Lyme Disease, but the invisible, inapparent dust mite.

Reprinting an article from, of all places, *The Wall Street Journal*, they quote a variety of expert sources and add their own commentary on *Dermatophagoides farinae* and its relationship with allergies, asthma, and even infant death syndrome. They don't go so far as to hint that cleaning people's mattresses (the favored breeding place) will be added to vector control activities and we hope this isn't a cloud on the horizon no bigger than a man's hand, as they say.

The fires that burned the homes in Laguna Hills, burned durned expensive homes with swimming pools and jacuzzis and all that and Gil's men have had to do considerable treating, including stocking the pools with *Gambusia*. The fires also upstaged Gil's conference on hantavirus, taking away the TV cameras. And pack rats, burned out of *their* hillside brush homes have swarmed into urban digs.

JACK HAZELRIGG'S SOUTHEAST MAD, COVERING MOST OF RESIDENTIAL LOS ANGELES (nothing could cover ALL of it—as you probably learned at San Diego) took the brunt of the burning, the earthquake, and the mud slides. He reported quake damage to concrete, plaster, and plumbing of swimming pools and jacuzzis, and his men had to scramble to find all of them in the damaged and untended homes. Heavy rains didn't help.

IT'S TOO LATE FOR THE NEWS TO DO YOU ANY GOOD BUT THE 35TH ANNUAL ENTOMOLOGY CONFERENCE and Museum Dedication Ceremony (no, we're pretty sure they didn't mean 35 annual museums) was held March 30 and 31, in Riverside, CA, according to a notice we received in February. It arrived, somewhat crumpled, in a plastic envelope imprinted with three long paragraphs of apologies from the post office. Maybe you've got one of these yourself. If not, we thought you'd want to know.

WE KEEP QUOTING FROM L. M. BOYD AND ASKING FOR CLARIFICATIONS FROM YOU WHO KNOW THE FACTS but so far without much input. Do his statements in his *Grab Bag* colyum seem just too silly to answer? Well, here's another we'd really like to know about. He allows that "Another species in the animal world that can change its body color to match the surroundings is the anopheline mosquito, the malaria spreader."

AS THOSE OF YOU WHO ALSO BELONG TO SOVE WILL KNOW FROM RUSS FONTAINE'S *Newsletter* with its great pictures (Nos. 23 and 24), the 25th anniversary and First International Congress in San Diego was a great success with over 350

registrants, from all over the world. Also a great success was the trial system of supplementing symposia and invitational papers with submitted poster presentations, including student ones. It worked. SOVE's next conference is October 2–5, in Gainesville, FL, and the XIIIth European meeting will be September 5–8 in Barcelona. Registration is by the Consell Comarcal del Baix Llobregat, Servei de Control de Mosquits, CN 340, 0890 Sant Feliu de Llobregat, Barcelona.

THEY HAD A CONFERENCE IN HAWAII, TOO, BUT (SOB) IT'S TOO LATE TO TELL YOU THAT. It was February 16–18 and we're wondering if we can scrape up the funds—it's a week away yet as we write. The Pacific Entomology Conference, it was.

HENRY RUPP, UNDERSTANDABLY PROUD, SENT A COPY OF THE 1993 *Proceedings* of the New Jersey MCA's 80th Annual Meeting, which was made camera-ready by his wonderful computer setup we described earlier. Not only was it camera-ready but it was ready two months earlier than usual. It makes great line drawing repros, as he illustrated by sending the Arthur Rackham picture of Mole and Rat loading the boat in "Wind in the Willows." But, alas, not good for photos. Always leave something to aim for, Henry.

New Jersey's season last year was complicated by heavy rains in the spring followed by a prolonged dry spell which snafu'd the *Gambusia*. With this year's once-in-a-hundred-years snow and ice storms, we'll be interested to hear what Mother Nature does in the coming season.

BOB HOLUB'S DESPLAINES VALLEY MAD IN ILLINOIS had some weather-related problems, too, of a mild sort. Normal to slightly cooler temperatures in 1993 combined with more than normal precipitation gave them a above normal population of *Aedes vexans*, though fortunately they found no *Aedes albopictus*. The TV pictures we were regaled with in February night after night ought to show us once and for all if a cold winter does anything to help.

IN A PAPER PRESENTED BY DR. EDWARD TELLER IN 1992 TO THE ARMY SCIENCE CONFERENCE, reprinted recently and shared with us by Ye Ed, Dr. Teller made a statement echoing Dr. Edward's book mentioned last time. We quote: "We did regulate DDT and did a tremendous favor to the mosquitoes. Malaria was on its way out and recently malaria has killed tens of millions of people due to thoughtless environmentalists who insisted on premature regulations. I believe that by getting good information . . . we could replace thoughtless environmentalism with careful environmentalism."

WE SHOULD HAVE MENTIONED LORIN ANDERSON'S NOMINATION TO HONORARY MEMBERSHIP IN ESA, back there when we spoke about Gene Gerberg's. Although not active in mosquito control since, Dr. Anderson developed the praerosol smoke mosquito repellent technique used in the South Pacific during WW II and was active in aquatic insect control programs in both California and Virginia, where he has been now for many years.

THE ISTITUTO DI PARASSITOLOGIA, IN ROME, ONE OF JAMCA'S SUBSCRIBERS, has sent us three papers on *Ae. albopictus*, detailing its progress since it was first noted in 1990 in Genoa, in the north, to a finding in Civitavecchia, which is central. We couldn't read the sender's name but we thank him. Laboratory infection with both *Dirofilaria imitis* and *Dirofilaria repens*, "indicated full competence" in transmission of canine filariasis. We imagine you saw the recent report that CATS, too, can get c.f. This should be of interest to the famous cats of Rome at the Coliseum and Spanish Steps.

KEN LUDLUM SENT US A CLIPPING FROM THE *BOSTON GLOBE* ABOUT A NEW USE FOR BACON. A gent returned from Costa Rica with an infestation of botfly, resulting from eggs carried by mosquitoes. (We never knew THAT.) Diagnosed improperly and treated with antibiotics, the wounds continued until the larvae were plainly visible, when someone suggested a "folk remedy" of laying strips of bacon over them. Smothered them into coming out.

NO DOUBT YOU NOTICED THE ARTICLE BY JOHN GAMBLE IN THE WINTER EDITION of *Wing Beats*, in which he strongly recommended the dissolution of AMCA, and asked for comment, which we hope a lot of you will respond to. To his comment that there are any number of other journals that publish much the same thing as our special pet, and organizations like SOVE and ESA to do it, we can only say that we do take the *Journal of Medical Entomology* and it's not the

same at all as *Mosquito Systematics* (Thank goodness! We don't know a thing about systematics, except for separating out the *quads* in WW II.) And none of the above has N & N, we might add.

The environmentalists whom we excoriated for allowing malaria to retake the world are right about one thing, we think, however, when they say, as Greg Ballimer, an agricultural entomologist in Colton (Calif.) did recently, "If we allow these things to go extinct, it's kind of like taking books out of the library and burning them without even reading them." He proposed putting the Delta Sands flower-loving fly on the Endangered Species List, thus frustrating developers who wanted to build on the desert area of which only 2% remains and which would augment the proposed development very little. This is the first dipteran on the Endangered Species List.

AND SURFING THROUGH THE PRESS WE FIND THE REDOUBTABLE *Wall Street Journal* also giving out the news of a VULTURE infestation in Maryland and in South Boston, VA, and mentioning the fact that Animal Damage Control officers have been called out. The birds haven't been designated "vectors" yet, however. Yet.

In addition to the citrosa plant still being touted by garden experts of the Sunday papers, David Carlson from the USDA in Gainesville, was reported in *Popular Science* last December as having isolated a "trypsin-modulating-oostatic-factor" (whew!) said to upset a primary digestive enzyme in mosquitoes, thus causing them to starve to death. But presumably AFTER one blood meal. And you may wish to know that the going price for gnats and ants in amber is \$12 but "several thousand" for mosquitoes.

And a final addendum to our on-going tale of entomophagic gourmet cooking: there's a club in Washington, DC, called "The Insect Club" with pool tables, a bar, and a menu. On that are featured cricket burgers, mealworm chimichanga, and mealworm won ton. Also dessert of cricket brownies and chocolate cups. Mmmmmmm!