

NEWS AND NOTES

AUSTIN W. MORRILL, JR.

THE NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE IS CURIOSER AND CURIOSER, AS ALICE SAID IN WONDERLAND, AND THE NEWS ON THE MOSQUITO FRONT CONTINUES TO AMAZE AS WELL AS INFORM YRS. TRLY. For instance, a gent at Rutgers University, researching under an ONR grant on biodegradation of oil slicks has come up with a number of bacteria that EAT the oil . . . and do it with visible rapidity. It has been suggested that this is a new weapon in the armamentarium of mosquito control people since we can go ahead and contaminate the environment with diesel oil, at any rate, if not with insecticides. Then aerospray the area with bacteria to eat the oil after it has sunk the mosquito larvae.

Meanwhile, not all the news is good. In far-off Mindanao (far off, that is, unless you're in Zamboanga) entomologists of the Department of Public Health of the RP have found *Anopheles litoralis* carrying malaria. Apparently having got the word that we were about to wipe out *minus flavirostris*, lil ole *litoralis* figured there was a good empty niche for it to fit in. So now we have lowland malaria and highland malaria and SEASHORE malaria in SEA. wow. How 'bout that, PACO DY?

And in leafing through Oz BRELAND's wonderful book "Animal Life and Lore" for the hundredth time (and if you don't have a copy, you should . . . Harper and Row (adv.)) we came across his amusing discussion of the old fallacy that a singing mosquito doesn't bite, probably based on the barking dog won't bite superstition, which as everyone knows depends on when the dog stops barking. Oz points out that besides singing midges that don't bite, folks get put off by MALE mosquitoes that may enjoy singing in our ears (probably while the female gets in her bites unheard!)

Oz says, too, that a mosquito beats her wings from 278 to 587 times a second to make that noise . . . faster than any other insect except some midges, which may go to 1,047 beats . . . and compared to a hummingbird with a slow 40 to 50. Try beating your arms that fast!

DON JOHNSON SENDS US NEWS ABOUT ENCEPHALITIS COMPILED BY CDC IN THEIR MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY WEEKLY REPORT (now, there's some cheerful reading). But the news is sort of good, at that. In 1969, there were 1,917 cases of encephalitis reported, with 307 deaths, in the United States. This was less than 1968 and the lowest in the 10-year period 1960-69. Only 108 of these were arboviral, anyway, as compared with 130 in 1968. California

type accounted for 67, EEE for 3, WEE for 21, and 16 were St. Louis. One case of Venezuelan equine was reported from Florida, which had the first such U.S. case, in 1968. So maybe things are getting better and, again, maybe it's a cycle.

OF COURSE THERE'S CYCLES AND CYCLES AS DICK PETERS HAS CAUSE TO KNOW in his land of Hollywood fantasy where research is a dirty word and when you control the mosquitoes and DON'T have an epidemic, everyone says it's a cycle, but if you DO control them everyone accuses you of contaminating the environment, and how do you know there'd have been any encephalitis anyway? (Dick didn't say that, we got it from the newspapers.) DICK said Hawaii was wonderful and he admired PAT NAKAGAWA's program (as do we all) when he was here, back in November, and found the instant fish fascinating.

AT THE SAME TIME ALAN CZENKUSCH HAS BEEN FINDING OUT SOME FASCINATING THINGS ABOUT FISH . . . *GAMBUSIA AFFINIS*, WELL KNOWN TO ALL . . . IN HIGH UP GUNNISON, COLORADO. Gunnison is situated in a high . . . 7,700 feet . . . mountain valley and is surrounded almost entirely by irrigated hay meadows. wow. So Alan tried fish, which, he says, proved to be a valuable adjunct to his regular program, which includes larviciding with Baytex granules and drippers, fogging with malathion in a thermal portable, cultural control by draining, ditching and diking and all that, and aerial spray of 6,500 acres. BUT GET THIS . . . two of his ponds are "warm," clear up at 9,000 and 10,000 feet, and lo! Here are little ole *Gambusia affinis* from the good old subtropics overwintering quite happily in the Alpine airs. Alan says he's even found some that overwintered in ponds near Gunnison which freeze to a depth of two feet or a little more. brrrr.

PAUL RICE HAS GONE AND RETIRED FROM CDC BUT HASN'T CUT OFF ALL CONTACTS, PREDICTABLY. So he sends word that the course (No. 2310C) in Control of Mosquito-borne Diseases which HERB SCHOOF and his staff and OSCAR FULTZ and his staff gave so successfully last year, is to be repeated this year during the period of 17 through 21 May. Details and application blanks may be obtained from the Center for Disease Control, Attention: Training Office, Laboratory Division, Atlanta, Georgia 30333. Paul says his associate, ANDREW BROOKS, will direct

the course and Paul himself, after, we assume, the customary period of going fishing, rocking-chair-sitting and fussing over chores around the house, will be a consultant at CDC and do some college teaching in and around Atlanta. Paul says further that DICK DARSIE is leaving Manila to come to the position as Chief, Vector-Borne Disease Training Unit. And we're happy to hear that, as Paul is to tell it, except that we DID hope to get by to see Dick in Manila and let him show us if STEVE HU's old haunts are still being haunted.

BILL BICKLEY SENDS US WHAT HE CALLS AN "UNSCIENTIFIC" NOTE ON AN INTERESTING REPORT BY J. B. DIMOND, entitled, "The Periodical Literature Used by Entomologists" and appearing in the *Bulletin of the Entomological Society of Canada* 2(4):110-112, of December 1970. Proceeding from the assumption that the frequency of citation of periodicals may indicate those that are most used and probably the most important periodical resources in a given field, Dr. Dimond searched the reference lists of all papers published in the 1969 volumes of the *Canadian Entomologist*, the *Journal of Economic Entomology* and the *Annals*. There were 6,955 citations encompassing 770 periodicals and the journals just mentioned were quite naturally cited the most themselves. *Nature* and the *Journal of Insect Physiology* were fourth and fifth. *MOSQUITO NEWS* was *twelfth!* (And we have a restricted subject matter, too, remember.) Bick says in his biased opinion the results show that our journal is better than 758 other periodicals. Well, at least more useful, Bick. Naturally, we think it's BETTER than any of them!

HARRY PRATT, BLESS HIM, TAKING NO UMBRAGE AT OUR RECENT FLIP REMARKS, SENDS IN A FULL REPORT ON THE MEETINGS OF THE TEXAS MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION. They held their annual meeting in the Texas State Health Department building in Austin, December 9 and 10, with President PAUL LUDWIG presiding. Interesting papers were presented by JOHN SCANLON, GEORGE THOMPSON, DON MICKS and JACK WISEMAN on the first day and talks by HARRY and by PAUL FOURNIER were given the second day. (Really, we didn't need to add that supererogatory adjective "interesting" to that list, did we?) The new officers are: President, BOBBIE DAVIS; Prexy-elect, JIMMIE LONG; First vp, JOHN SCANLON; 2nd vp, BILL BARRETT; Secretary-Treasurer, BOB BARNETT; Directors, KEN LAUDERDALE and C. REEVES. Dr. Long is, of course, the new AMCA Director for the South Central Region. The Association named a Committee to start working on the AMCA meeting at the Rice Hotel in Houston in 1973 (March 23-28)!

MEANWHILE, DON PLETSCH and his wife SOCCO are studying Japanese to brush up for

a possible trip there in 1972. From the perfect Hiragana characters in which Don wrote his Merry Christmas on an otherwise Spanish card, he doesn't have too much brushing up to do, though he moans about how amazingly much one can "disremember" after 15 years. Shake, Don! Anyway, he writes, "O-San and I haven't had many dull moments since 'retirement' in October 1969. November 69 (saw us) in South America (Macchu Pichu, the Iguazu Cataracts, etc.), January '70 in Europe and North Africa, in May saw my Ethiopian and AID friends in Addis Ababa on an "unretirement" assignment. In October-November (1970), I had a chance to look at the Malaria Eradication program in Nepal (what a beautiful country) and to see ALAN STEFFEN, LARRY COWPER, CHUCK HAYES, ED SMITH (by phone while passing through New Delhi).

"TIM O'CONNOR spent two weeks with us in Mexico between assignments in Haiti and Rio, JALIL KARAM took Tim's place in Haiti . . . have deeply felt the news of PASTOR ESCHAVEZ' death (heart attack in Kuala Lumpur; news per FRANCISCO DY) Pastor was a real ramrod in the Taiwan WHO/ME Team. O-San and I are trying to build a house near Mexico City but bureaucratic inertia has almost convinced us to skip it. Fuertes Abrazos!" Don't give up on the bureaucratic inertia, Don. It took us one solid year to add ONE ROOM here in Honolulu! Not counting the *building* time.

ART AND NITA LINDQUIST TRAVELLED 16,754 miles in their camper coach in the US this year and then, not satisfied, added in another 4,000 km. in a VW camper in Europe. (Remind us to retire, Art and Don and Nita and Socorro . . . and tell us how you do it.) Golly.

IN OCTOBER GEORGE THOMPSON TOLD HIS COMMISSION STERNLY THAT "the State of New Jersey spends over \$5,000,000.00 a year on mosquito control. The State has a total area of only 7,836 square miles, about 7 times the size of our County. On this basis we should get about \$700,000.00 a year. This would be more than is needed under present circumstances. Harris County is doing a fine job with about \$750,000.00 per year. [Take a bow, BOB BARNETT!—Ed.] That County is larger than ours and has a formidable job of working in Houston." But George should have pointed out, as his modest figures showed later, that the main species in order of numbers, were *Aedes sollicitans*, *Psorophora confinnis*, *P. ciliata*, and *Ae. taeniorhynchus* . . . all more numerous than his *Culex* species, and just POSSIBLY due to things beyond human control. Sorry, George, but you may be doing a good job on that little ole smidgeon of money you're getting!

BOB BARTNETT'S HARRIS COUNTY MEANWHILE was reporting that they had an unexpected bonanza in their search for biological control organisms when the bacteria being studied by their District and the University of Texas were found in several locations where rather high percentages of larval mortality were being observed. In January, Bob reported that the protozoan of the family Microsporidia, occurring in his *Culex*, is an apparently new and certainly significant finding. Bob, by the way, is President of the Gulf States Wildlife, Fisheries and Mosquito Control Council.

GLENN STOKES IS THE SECRETARY-TREASURER of that Council (what DO our AMCA'ers do with their spare time?) and also the VP of the Louisiana Mosquito Control Association, on which he sends us the information that President is Dr. LEWIS GRAHAM, Secretary-treasurer is GEORGE CARMICHAEL and their articles of incorporation say that "mosquito control" shall be interpretable as including the control of any arthropods directly injurious to man or domestic animals. Bravo!

CHET ROBINSON REPORTS WITH PARDONABLE SATISFACTION THAT ALTHOUGH THE RAINFALL WAS ABOVE AVERAGE BY QUITE A BIT THE ANGUISHED CRIES FROM THE ELECTORATE FOR SUCCOR FROM MOSQUITOES CONTINUED ON ITS DOWNWARD TREND. Quite a bit downward, in fact, and he attributed this to the success of the continuing source reduction program. Costs of larvicides were down about a fourth, too, which made the Trustees happy. Chet declares he's thinking of retiring this year. We can't see why, but maybe he's been listening to ART and PAUL and DON.

HAN SCHENKER'S BEEN TALKING TO THEM TOO, he allows, and says a little place in New England would just suit him fine. We don't think he really means retiring COMPLETELY. Anyway, anyone wanting a job as a Colonel or as a MAD Manager in Alameda, send in your applications. Or maybe a MAD in New England?

WE SHOULD HAVE SAID BACK YONDER THAT HARRY PRATT'S NEW ADDRESS IS: Chief, Insect and Rodent Control Branch, Division of Environmental Improvement, Bureau of Community Environmental Manager, Consumer Protection and Environmental Health Service, U.S. Public Health Service, Atlanta, Georgia, 30326. That's Room 313, 3384 Peachtree Rd. N.E., Atlanta, Georgia, and don't get writing so fast you leave out one of the environmentals. KENT LITTIG'S in there too, you know.

KENNETH ARMSTRONG, WHO WENT FROM ARMY TO DOW, took the two-week course for Reservists

at DVCC, Jacksonville, and was so inspired by the Navy's version of schooling that he started last August working on his Masters at Clemson (Edisto Experiment Station, Blackville, South Carolina, it says on the postmark.) Good luck, Ken.

JOHN KLIEWER AND CARL VICKERY PUT OUT A MIGHTY HANDSOME SUMMARY OF THEIR WORK in Thailand and the Thailand Malaria Operational Research Unit, known by the acronym TMORU. We don't know how you pronounce it. But we pronounce their work fascinating. Recounting how the initial work in Chiang Mai (under DEED and ERNESTINE THURMAN) had virtually eliminated *Anopheles minimus* and the expansion of this work had had dramatic success until about 1965, they point out that since that time the progress has been somewhat slowed by several factors. *Anopheles b. balabacensis*, of Vietnam fame, or infamy, and the concurrent (though perhaps not concomitant) *falciparum* malaria, and its chloroquin resistance, with the greatly increased in-country migration of workers and settlers, are three of the problems. An example of the increase in internal migrations is the increase in one village along the Korat-Sattahip highway, recently completed for largely military reasons, which brought the village from 426 people in 78 houses in 1968 to 1,389 people in 298 houses a year later.

AND SPEAKING OF THAILAND, MIKE NELSON HAS LEFT LOS ANGELES FOR ITS counterpart in Asia (the Hollywood part being the Palace and Temples of the Wat Phra Keo), that is, Bangkok, where he will be with the WHO Aedes Research Unit in the Devavem Palace, no less. Ooooh, those emeralds! And that lovely countryside OUTSIDE the city.

NOT SO ROMANTIC BUT MOVES NONETHELESS are those of BILL BASKIN, who went from Pueblo, Colorado, to Forest Hill, Maryland, B. L. HOFFMAN, who traded Davis, California for Cincinnati, MERRILL CATES, now with the Bureau of Entomology, Division of Health, in Jacksonville, Florida, JESSUP JOHNSON, who went from Oregon to Brandon, Florida, JIMMY OLSON, to the Dept of Entomology of Texas A and M at College Station, and JESSE HOBBS, who came back to Atlanta from Rio.

JOHN DOLL decided to change Rocky Ford, Colorado, for Tucson, Arizona 85713; ANDREW MAIN Jr., moved from Taunton, Mass, to New Haven, Connecticut 06511; JOHN STOUGH has gone from Virginia to Corsicana, Texas; LT LARRY LEWIS USN is now in Fayetteville, Arkansas, absorbing knowledge; JOE KNOWLES has moved to Lawton, Oklahoma 75301; CAPT DON ROBERTS

is at the University of Texas Medical Center in Houston; BRIAN STURGESS has traded DaNang for Saigon and USAID; ROBERT TONN is now in Dar es Salaam, in Tanzania; GARY CROSBY (do you sing, too, Gary??) has moved from Gulfport to Long Beach, both in Mississippi; and CARLTON GILKES is now PAHO/WHO, PO Box 920, Paramaribo, Surinam. LYSLE HAVERFORD has traded Luziana for Paradise, California (but we thought Luzianne was paradise . . . it shore ain't purgatory), and CAPT DARWIN PALMER, Jr., is with the Department of Entomology at the University of Missouri.

AND SOME OF YOU GUYS MUST BE HAVING SOME WONDERFUL, FRESH, NEW EXPERIENCES . . . HOW ABOUT DROPPING US A LINE ABOUT THEM? AND YOU?

DR. TOM BAST, ASSOCIATE MEDICAL ENTOMOLOGIST in the New York State Department of

Health, informs us that the Dutchess County (Poughkeepsie, N. Y. and vicinity) mosquito control program has been nominated for an achievement award from the National Association of Counties. The nomination came from no less a personage than the County Executive of Dutchess County, Mr. David C. Schoentag, which we take to be a strong endorsement of the efforts of Vaughn Wagner, Medical Entomologist in the County, and Tom Bast who exercises general supervision over the different county programs as they develop.

Dutchess County was the first of several programs that have taken shape since Tom took over mosquito work in the State Health Department. Research goes along with control in Dutchess County, as it should, and has included work with Flit MLO, the use of fish, studies of methoxychlor granules for early season larviciding, and other possibilities for improving the program.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION FELLOWSHIPS AVAILABLE TO UNITED STATES HEALTH WORKERS

The World Health Organization will make available in 1972 a limited number of short-term fellowships for travel abroad related to the "improvement and expansion of health services" in the United States. This support is to United States citizens engaged in operational or educational aspects of public health.

In selecting applications, a special committee will consider the professional background of the individual, the field and locale of the study proposed, and the utilization of the experience by the applicant on his return. Employees of the Federal Government are not eligible. Applications will not be considered for the pursuit of pure research projects, for attendance at international meetings, nor from students in the midst of training at either the undergraduate or graduate level. Applicants may not be more than 55 years of age.

A fellowship award will cover per diem and transportation. Except in very unusual circumstances, it will be limited to short-term travel programs averaging about two months. Employers of successful applicants will be expected to endorse applications and to continue salary during the fellowships.

Priorities of award will be established up to the total of the funds available. The deadline for the receipt of completed applications is September 30, 1971.

Further information may be obtained from Dr. Robert W. Jones, III, Chief, Foreign Students Education Branch, Bureau of Health Manpower Education, National Institutes of Health, Public Health Service, Room 1014, HEW-S, Washington, D. C. 20201.