

## NEWS AND NOTES

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WE HOPE YOU'RE READING THIS ON THE PLANE TO SACRAMENTO AND THE 1982 MEETINGS. JIM OLSON AND THE CALIFORNIACS HAVE SOME REAL ROCK SETS COMING UP. WATCH FOR YOUR BIG JUNE ISSUE! And, in the meantime, we wish to add in a slightly. . . but only slightly . . . lower tone of voice, send us some notes about your activities this past year. We know you've been doing Annual Reports, so it'll be easy. (Our deadline is 10 APRIL.)

YE ED. HAS SENT US SEVERAL NICE ITEMS FROM T.I.B. WHATEVER THAT IS (we hate to admit we're losing our grip on the Governmental Alphabet) first of which is from a Defense Pest Management Information Analysis Center reporting that the *Journal of the Industrial Hygiene Association* reports that the University of Miami School of Medicine has reported that "there has been a significant, almost constant decrease in the total rate of liver cancer deaths, namely, from 8.8 in 1930 to 8.4 in 1944 (when DDT was introduced) to 5.6 in 1972). This almost constant decline . . . fails to support the 'positive,' namely clearcut, evidence of any increase in liver cancer deaths since the introduction of the first organochlorine pesticide into the U.S. environment." We seem to remember that the study (in Atlanta?) of persons taking measured quantities of DDT and those taking placebos showed a reduction in cancer among those who TOOK it, so maybe we should say as Dr. Edwards of San Jose suggested a good while ago, that DDT CURES cancer. EPA and Sierra Club, please note.

CONTINUING: "Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) continues to be the most prevalent indigenously-transmitted" (that means locally contracted-Ed.) "arthropod-borne human disease in our country. As of September 1981, 1,066 cases of RMSF were reported, mainly from the South Atlantic region. . . . California encephalitis, a mosquito-borne disease, has been reported from four states (New York-4 cases, Ohio-2 cases, Georgia-1 case, and North Carolina-1 case). No human cases of St. Louis encephalitis (SLE) have been reported so far this year. This contrasts sharply with 1980 when 115 cases of SLE were reported with 68 cases in Texas alone. One human case of western equine encephalitis has been reported from Colorado and two cases from Texas this year.

No human cases of eastern equine encephalitis have been reported during the current year.

There was a total of 78 cases of dengue in the US during 1980, including 63 cases from Texas (27 indigenously transmitted, 36 imported) and 15 imported dengue cases reported from other states. Through September, no locally transmitted cases of dengue fever were reported from the US during 1981, but one imported case of dengue was reported from each of the following states: Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, New York, Texas, and Virginia. The imported dengue cases were noted particularly in persons who had travelled to the Caribbean area.

"As of September of this year, 1,027 cases of imported malaria were reported in the US." To us, this adds up to mean our mosquito control has been pretty darn good, wouldn't you say?

THE ARMY HAS COME UP WITH A MINIATURE SOLID STATE LIGHT TRAP ALONG THE LINES OF THE CDC ORIGINAL but featuring a four-bladed fan, which produces more suction velocity and less specimen damage; a motor which draws less amperage and produces more power; a larger, brighter bulb; a gel cell battery and a photo cell which turns the light off but leaves the fan running to retain the specimens. The estimated cost for the trap, and the charger for its battery, is about \$150.00, available (to the military . . . and we assume soon to the taxpayers as well . . . in March 1982 . . . right now!!)

THE AERIAL SPRAY BRANCH OF THE U. S. AIR FORCE RESERVE CAN AND DOES SPRAY WORLD-WIDE FOR VECTOR CONTROL AND OTHER THINGS and this is available to military units and civilians as well, THROUGH CHANNELS. Of course, through channels means considerable paper work but that hasn't prevented them from being Johnny-on-the-spot for encephalitis outbreaks in Texas, locusts in Saudi Arabia (why those ingrates!), Japanese beetles, loopers and gypsy moths in New England and *much more*, as the 6 o'clock news says.

THAT ISN'T, WE'RE AFRAID, COMPUTERIZED YET BUT HARRY WEST OF PRINCESS ANNE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION is running the

math part of his ULV particle size determinations with his Apple II. Now, it takes less than a minute instead of the previous 15 to 20, and at current secretarial rates, that's a drop from about \$2.50 per test to around 0.06. Of course, we aren't saying he uses a *secretary* for counts, Union forbid. His "Visicalc" disc is commercially available for budgetary review and amendment. Be sure you punch "Enter" HAIRY. SKEETER (STUART McCAUSLAND) says JIM RINDFLEISCH uses his to write-up *Skeeter*, itself, until Stu gets a printer for his Apple.

Notice of their (VMCA's) Annual Meeting reached us too late for the December issue, so we couldn't tell you that their and the Mid-Atlantic Mosquito Control Association's was 17-19 February at the Sheraton Beach Inn in Virginia Beach, Virginia; papers included discussions of aquatic weed control, wildlife-pest management, *B.t.i.* and COMPUTERS.

NEW JERSEY MCA'S MEETINGS RETURNED TO THE BOARDWALK ON 17, 18 and 19 MARCH IN ATLANTIC CITY after an absence of six years, in fact to the same magnificent old hotel, now the "Resorts International." Isn't that the refurbished place where they have *Games of Chance*? Well, we've held meetings in Disneyland and none the worse for it. HENRY RUPP, in issuing the invitation to come, warmed our heart by saying if you want only to listen, "that is no crime, and there's a lot to be learned by listening."

GARY CLARK, PREXY OF THE ILLINOIS MCA, WROTE BOB SJOGREN TO SAY THAT BOB'S HELP HAD MADE THE ILLINOIS MEETING A GREAT SUCCESS AND HOPED 1982'S IN OHIO WOULD BE ONE TOO. In a note to TOMMY MULHERN, Bob added that the meeting at Starved Rock Lodge was indeed outstanding, handing the compliment back to Gary for programming and listing among those attending, BRUCE FRANCY, PEG PARSONS, BILL HORSFALL, NEIL PENNINGTON, GEORGE CRAIG and GENE DEFOLIART. The note reached US just now, or we'd have said all this sooner; the meeting was in October.

LTC BRUCE HARRISON HAS RETURNED FROM AFRIMS, FORMERLY SEATO MEDICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY in Bangkok and will now be in charge of the Walter Reed Biosystematics Unit at the Smithsonian. His staff will include Captains (Army, that is) MICHAEL FARAN and RALPH HARBACH from WRAIR and they'll work in conjunction with E. L. PEYTON and YIAU-MIN

HUANG of the Medical Entomology Project at the Smithsonian. Now, about those alphabets: AFRIMS is the Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences, SEATO was the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, until Thailand asked us out, and WRAIR is (you knew?) the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington D.C. and nearby Silver Spring, Md. Clear?

TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE NEWS REPORTED LAST FALL THAT CLINICAL TRIALS IN SUDAN had shown that Oltipraz, a newly-developed antischistosomal agent was remarkably well tolerated and extremely effective. This, from projects which have been established in Khartoum and Sennar to "characterize the host, vector and (the) environmental interactions which affect the prevalence and the intensity of onchocerciasis and the biology of the simuliid vectors." Dr. DON NEWSON is in charge of *that*.

ALSO REPORTED WAS THE STATEMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY AT THE AAAS MEETINGS that while, "It is no longer within our economic capacity, nor perhaps even desirable, to aspire to primacy across the spectrum of scientific disciplines," the Federal Government can be expected to continue providing strong support to biologic and biomedical research. Personally, we think we as a nation should aspire to doing the *most we can*, whether that means "primacy" or not, but we're heartened that *it* won't be limited to the fields "where vitality is required to support industrial, military and other essential technologies, as well as those with particular scientific promise" of a major breakthrough. Breakthroughs don't always promise ahead.

THOSE OF YOU WHO KNOW DR. JACQUES P. J. HAMON WILL BE INTERESTED TO LEARN, IF YOU DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW, THAT HE IS NOW THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL OF WHO IN GENEVA. He was, of course, Director of the Division of Vector Biology and Control before and, earlier, with France's organization working on endemic disease in Upper Volta.

CHUCK PALMISANO GOT A NICE NOTICE FROM UNITED PRESS INT. WORLDWIDE IN LATE NOVEMBER when they gave him a four inch (long) column-and-a-half box headline, "Germ Warfare Tried Against Mosquitoes," and detailing his work with *B.t.i.* in Louisiana.

Being a newspaper report, the bacillus' name wasn't quite right of course, but the write up was very good and we got quite a few phone calls from excited friends wanting the scoop. We hope you did, too. Good P.R.!

BRUCE EZELL WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF ERSKINE COLLEGE IN DUE WEST, SOUTH CAROLINA, LAST SEPTEMBER TOO LATE FOR CONGRATULATIONS IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE SO WE SEND BELATED CONGRATS RIGHT NOW. Erskine College is South Carolina's oldest (founded 1839) church-related four-year college and Bruce is the 11th President. He says, "Now don't get smart and ask me Due West of What?" but of course, it's just due west. Bruce says also, "Of course, I was delighted at my selection for a number of reasons. After a short sojourn as Head of the Department of Biology at Georgia Southern College. I am returning to western South Carolina. I expect to be doing some limited teaching and will be introducing a course in entomology. . . ." May you have the best of success, Bruce, and LOTS of entomology students, all interested in mosquitoes!

WHILE WE'RE IN THE OLD SOUTH, GEORGE BRADLEY RECENTLY WROTE TO TOMMY AND SAID, IN PASSING, THAT HE'S STILL IN GOOD HEALTH AND LIVING IN ROME, GEORGIA. Old MCWA'ers and Army 4th Service Command types, will remember that George's (and "Tom" McNeel's and Doctor King's) bulletin was our Mosquito Bible in WWII and thereafter. Beyond that, his advice helped us bring down military malaria rates in the southeastern states (where two-thirds of the military personnel were) from a level present-day mosquito controllers wouldn't believe to nearly zilch. Cheers! George.

UPI, ALWAYS IMPARTIAL, ALSO SENT WORLDWIDE A MISLEADING LITTLE ITEM HEADED, "Malathion found in 2,000 dead fish—biologist" which quoted one Brian Finlayson (probably incompletely) as saying that "the pesticide was detected in tissues of the dead fish and water samples taken from the creek east of Fremont." (Calif.) The level was 1,000 parts per billion and about 200 carp and 2,000 mosquito fish were found in a shallow portion of the creek, the account went on. (Emphasis ours) What the account doesn't go on to say is that hundreds of thousands of fish die each year as pools dry up. These shallow pools were after early unseasonable rains and, naturally,

were even more shallow, if they were there at all, prior to the rains. The performance of the press and TV in reporting the Medfly facts and fictions has been so horrifying to us biologists that we can't really give them much applause for factual reporting; Chuck Palmisano's achievement in getting good facts into them is all the more impressive here in California.

IPM PRACTICIONER, A PUBLICATION OF BIO INTEGRAL RESOURCE CENTER WHICH BOOSTS IPM, said in October that there was an opening for a PhD technical rep. serving mosquito abatement districts. If still open, resumés should go to Mr. Kelly Kincannon, Suite 300, 5129 Westminster, St. Louis, Missouri, 63108, or phone (314) 367-5575. That was quite a while ago but it might still be there, anyone who's interested.

THE CMVCA ENTOMOLOGY AND BIOLOGICAL CONTROL COMMITTEES AND THE SOCIETY OF VECTOR ECOLOGISTS' THIRTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE 18 to 20 January, 1982, was held at the U. of California, Davis, and had speakers reporting on vector-borne diseases from Africa, the Americas and Asia. The invitational paper was by Dr. MICHAEL SERVICE of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, on Africa, which he also covered in a symposium later. The roles of *Dirofilaria* and of various protozoa and diseases were discussed and there was a symposium on notonectids, nematodes, flatworms and other predators. Symposia have come a long way from the Greek ones, taken lying down and with refreshments. We refreshed our minds. . . . the other refreshments came at 5:30.

JERRY TAYLOR OF SCOTTS BLUFF (NE) HAD A BUSY, BUSY YEAR AND A PRODUCTIVE ONE IN MOSQUITO CONTROL. To begin with, EPA funded a study of land-levelling and source reduction in native grass areas. (EPA doesn't do EVERYTHING wrong. . . . but look out for the *Nature Conservancy*, Jerry. WE LIKE native grasses.) The study worked well and no chemicals were needed. Where they were needed, there developed a slight problem when the chemical's manufacturer decided native grasses were "crop areas" and the granules couldn't be used in conformity with the label. But no adverse effects on wildlife or other animals were observed. He also used IGR's and *B.t.i.* to good effect, though not in granule form, for the latter, nor any residual or pre-flood effectiveness. He'll keep trying.

IN THESE TIMES OF REDUCED FUNDING FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL WE FIND A CERTAIN MORBID FASCINATION IN A CLIPPING SENT US RECENTLY WHICH RECOUNTS A STUDY MANDATED BY ENVIRONMENTALISTS TO THE NAVY FOR THE DETECTION OF CHLORDANE IN THE AMBIENCE OF HOUSES WITH HEATING OR COOLING DUCTS AT OR BELOW GROUND LEVEL. OF THE NAVY'S 91,000 HOUSING UNITS, 5,000 HAVE SUCH DUCTS. THE STUDY WILL COST \$500,000 PLUS WHATEVER IT COSTS TO "REHABILITATE" (ABOUT \$2,000 A UNIT), RELOCATE INHABITANTS AND "DECONTAMINATE" WHATEVER "HAZARDOUS LEVEL" IS FOUND. WE GUESS THERE'LL BE SUITS, PROBABLY CLASS ACTION ONES, TOO, FOR IT'S BEEN IN WIDESPREAD USE SINCE 1946, IN TERMITE CONTROL. FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS, AND ALL THAT.

IN BIOLOGICAL CONTROL THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF TALK LATELY ABOUT IGR'S NATURALLY PRESENT IN MOST PLANTS, AS DISCUSSED, FOR INSTANCE, IN A RECENT ESA *Bulletin*. THE SAN FRANCISCO *Chronicle*, NOT ALWAYS RELIABLE ABOUT SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENTS, FOLLOWED WITH AN INTERVIEW WITH A DNA-gene-splicer-type SCIENTIST WHO POINTED OUT THAT WORK IS BEING DONE TO ISOLATE THE GENES RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS AND FOR REPELLENCY CHARACTERISTICS. HE ADDED THAT IT MIGHT EVEN APPLY TO ANIMALS. WHILE WE AREN'T SURE WE'D WANT THIS DONE TO US (EVEN IF IT WEREN'T TOO LATE!), IT WOULD BE BETTER THAN THE SUGGESTED INGESTION OF SYSTEMICS. IF ANY OF YOU ARE WORKING ON THIS. . . . A WORD?

THE SAME ESA BULLETIN HAD A FINE OBITUARY AND EULOGY OF BARNEY TRAVIS WHICH RECALLED US TO OUR SADNESS OF A YEAR AGO BUT ALSO TO OUR PRIDE AND PLEASURE IN HAVING KNOWN HIM. DR. TRAVIS' WORK FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL IS A LASTING LEGACY TO US ALL, WE NEED TELL NO ONE.

ADDENDUM TO THE MID-ATLANTIC AND VIRGINIA MCA JOINT MEETING: THE LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE ASSEMBLED 100 PACKS

OF GOODIES FOR THE FIRST 100 ATTENDERS (THESE WERE PROMO ARTICLES FROM VARIOUS SOURCES) AND PACKETS OF LESSER BUT STILL GOOD SORTS FOR THE LATE-COMERS. THERE WAS ALSO AN AFTER-MEETING PROGRAM INCLUDING SUCH THINGS AS A COMPUTER ROOM, POSSIBLY WITH MOSQUITO CONTROL-TYPE SOFTWARE. (A TRADE FAIR HERE IN SAN FRANCISCO DID THIS RECENTLY AND IN CAME A KID WHO PROCEEDED TO SIT DOWN, PUNCH A FEW BUTTONS AND ASK "ANYONE FOR A GAME OF STAR WARS?")

BECKY SCARCELLI'S PROGRAM OF TAKING MOSQUITO CONTROL TO THE SCHOOLS HAS BEEN MIGHTY SUCCESSFUL, ACCORDING TO *Skeeter*, VMCA'S W.K. NEWS SHEET. SHE GOT A FAN LETTER, AMONG SEVERAL DOZEN, WHICH WE QUOTE, "I LIKE HOW YOU TALK ABOUT HOW THE MOSQUITO CAN GIVE A DISEASE TO YOUR BLOOD VESSEL. . . . I LIKE EVERYTHING AND ENJOYED IT. THATS THE BEST THING THAT HAPPEN SINCE WE STARTED SCHOOL."

AND JIM RINDFLEISCH OF YORK COUNTY (VA) MCC, HAS BEEN WORKING ON EXTRACTING WHAT HE BELIEVES TO BE A HATCHING OR AUTO-INHIBITOR PHEROMONE PRODUCED BY MOSQUITO LARVAE. PROGNOSIS: "PROMISING!"

BILL BICKLEY SENT US THE INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARASITOLOGY, TO BE HELD IN TORONTO FROM 7 TO 14 AUGUST OF THIS YEAR. THE INTRODUCTION IS IN EIGHT LANGUAGES: ENGLISH, FRENCH, GERMAN, SPANISH, JAPANESE, CHINESE, RUSSIAN AND ARABIC. THE THEME IS "PARASITES—THEIR WORLD AND OURS," AND IT'LL COVER THE SUBJECT FROM EPIDEMIOLOGY TO ECONOMICS. PRE-REGISTRATION IS \$200.00 ADDRESSED TO ICOPA-V SECRETARIAT, 340 MACLAREN ST. OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA K2P 0M6 OR, IF YOU'RE OUTSIDE THE AMERICAS, PO BOX 121, OXFORD, ENGLAND (UK). SCIENCE MARCHES ON BUT NOT AS FAST AS INFLATION.