

## RESEARCH NOTES

## FURTHER NOTE ON LEECH INFESTATION IN MAN

In 1941 the writer reported the finding of leeches in the human nose from Lotien, Kweichow Province and Chaotung, Yünnan Province, China, (Chinese Med. J., 60: 241-243). During the winter of 1944, the Chaotung specimen was lost. The three Lotien specimens were brought to the United States in 1947 and at the suggestion of Prof. Ernest Carroll Faust were sent for identification to Prof. J. Percy Moore, University of Pennsylvania. These were determined as *Dinobdella ferox* (Blanchard), all of them being immature, and therefore not fully characterized.

In his letter to Dr. Faust (dated May 27, 1947), Dr. Moore made a statement regarding his unpublished observations on this species in the Orient, as follows:

"*Dinobdella ferox* (Blanchard) is widely distributed in India, Burma, Southeast China and Formosa and is a serious pest of domestic and some wild mammals. It is known to attack man by taking up its abode in the air passages. You will find about all that was known of it at the time in the volume on Hirudinea in the Fauna of British India, 1927 (Moore, Arhynchobdellae, pp. 175-185). During my visit to India in 1930-31, I discovered that it breeds at springs, wells and small streams (and probably some larger bodies of water) frequented by cattle, horses and other mammals. The egg capsules are deposited in the mud and the newly hatched young,  $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  in. long, abound in the water on aquatic plants, etc. If one places a hand in the water many of the little leeches instantly attach to it and rapidly loop up the arm. The same happens to the muzzle of a cow or horse or the face of a man drinking leech-infested water, and the young leeches quickly enter the nostrils or mouth and attach themselves to the wall of the respiratory passages, usually far back in the pharynx or larynx. They grow rapidly and reach a large size and often do much damage."

Although Dr. Moore did not state the exact localities in Southeast China where this leech has been found, yet it seems to be widely distributed south of the Yangtze River. Since it is important both in veterinary and medical sciences, a thorough study of its distribution, biology and life history in China seems desirable.

The writer is indebted to Prof. Moore for identifying the specimens and the information regarding this species, which he has generously granted permission to quote.—TA-HSIUNG CHIN, National Kweiyang Medical College, Kweichow, China.

ON THE PARASITISM OF THE LEECH, *PISCICOLA SALMOSITICA* MEYER, 1946

In a recent publication by the writer (1946. J. Parasit. 32(5):467-476) the steelhead trout (*Salmo gairdneri gairdneri*) was given as the host for *Piscicola salmositica*. Mr. Leo Shapovalov, California State Division of Fish and Game, has kindly called attention to the fact that the proper spelling of the scientific name of the steelhead is *Salmo gairdnerii gairdnerii* rather than *S. gairdneri gairdneri*. He also pointed out that in the case of the Soos Creek specimens, an additional host species was involved, since all of the salmon of the Pacific Coast belong to the genus *Oncorhynchus*.

Dr. James E. Lynch, School of Fisheries, University of Washington, in a written communication dated 14 March 1947, informed me, the salmonids found in the vicinity of the Soos Creek Hatchery of King County, Washington, in addition to the steelhead, include the following species: the silver salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), the king salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), and the chum salmon (*O. keta*). In the same communication Dr. Lynch stated, "The *Piscicola salmositica* from the vicinity of the Soos Creek Hatchery, . . ., were either collected from the gravel in the bottom of the creek, or taken from the surface of salmon, but mostly were collected from the bottom. . . . Since the fish will die after spawning, anyway, the hatchery men kill the fish prior to salvaging the eggs. The numerous live fishes collected in the trap, plus the blood, spilled eggs, etc., in the water, apparently attract the leeches from a long distance downstream."

Since *Piscicola salmositica* is not a permanent parasite and agrees with most piscicolids in not being host-specific, the omission of any particular host fish is relatively unimportant. However the writer welcomes the opportunity to include the additional salmonid hosts as well as to correct the spelling of the scientific name of the steelhead.—Marvin C Meyer, Department of Zoology, University of Maine, Orono, Maine.

## FURTHER STUDIES ON RADIOIRON IN AVIAN MALARIA

In a previous communication (Thompson, McGinty, Bush and Wilson, J. Inf. Dis. 83: 23, 1948) canaries and ducks were treated with radioiron (Fe 55, 59) prior to infection with malarial