

### THREE UNUSUAL CASES OF PARASITISM (A SLUG, A MYRIAPOD, AND COCKROACHES) REPORTED IN MAN

C. W. STILES

Professor of Zoology, U. S. Public Health Service

Cases of pseudoparasitism and of spurious parasitism occasionally come to the attention of medical zoologists. Some of these are reduced to errors in observation, some to the chance presence of an organism in a host, some to attempts on the part of hysterical patients to mystify their physicians.

The three following cases are rather unusual and are published on this account.

Spurious parasitism due to a slug (*Limax flava*). Specimen 11, 165. A slug, determined by Dr. Paul Bartsch as *Limax flava*, was sent to the Hygienic Laboratory by the Maryland State Department of Health with the report that it was alleged to have been passed from the bowels by a patient in Baltimore.

As it is in good state of preservation it is difficult to assume that it passed through the intestinal canal.

A geophilid myriapod from stomach. No. 11, 159. Mr. L. M. McCormack of Ashville, N. C., has recently sent in a myriapod with the following history:

"I am sending you a specimen which the physician who brought it into the laboratory declares was in the stomach contents, brought up by a stomach pump; it looks to me like an adventurer and not an intestinal parasite."

Dr. L. O. Howard has determined this organism as a geophilid.

Several cases of the presence or alleged presence of myriapods in man have been recorded and in most instances the organisms have been geophilids. In some cases they were reported from the nasal passages, and associated with severe headache, in others they were reported from the intestine. R. Blanchard has summarized cases recorded by Littre (1708), Kerckring (1717), Sandifort (1789), Blumenbach (1807), Scoutetten (1827), Lefèvre (1833), Laboulbène (1867), Le Roy (1878), and Giard (1880).

Croton bugs (*Blatella germanica*) said to have come from an abscess of the jaw. Specimen 11, 226. This specimen was forwarded by Dr. Harold N. Cole of Cleveland, Ohio, with the following information:

Patient, a luetic in the City Hospital, had a large horse-chestnut sized swelling under angle of left jaw; the lesion has been very tender and the glands posterior to this are swollen and tender and scars of other glands are also seen under the jaw. On Nov. 21, 1916, patient suddenly had a chill with a temperature of 103 and began to expectorate a bloody sputum; upon examination of this expectoration a capsule was found together with some small arthropods. "Of course we cannot be absolutely sure, but apparently the patient expectorated these organisms."

The organisms in question were determined by A. N. Caudell of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology, as young cockroaches; the capsule was probably the egg case of the cockroach.

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## NOTES

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Dr. C. A. Kofoid, Consulting Biologist for the California State Board of Health, in the Bureau of Communicable Diseases, has been granted leave of absence for war work. Dr. W. W. Cort has become acting Consulting Biologist in charge of the Biological Division during Professor Kofoid's absence.

The Severance Union Medical College at Seoul, Korea, which was established as a special school on May 14, 1917, includes in its plan of organization a Research Department under the direction of Dr. Ralph G. Mills. Prominent among its aims as listed in the report of the director stands, "To investigate botanical and zoological problems, especially those that bear upon the questions of animal parasites and native drugs."

The National Research Council has asked the persons named below to serve as a committee on medical zoology which will be related on the one hand to its work in zoology and on the other hand and more especially to its work on medicine:

### ENTOMOLOGY

Dr. L. O. Howard, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. (chairman of group); Prof. Charles T. Brues, Bussey Institute, Forest Hill, Mass.; Prof. C. V. Riley, Cornell University, Ithaca.

### PROTOZOOLOGY

Prof. (Major, S. C. N. A.) C. A. Kofoid, University of California, Berkeley, Calif. (chairman of group) (Fort Sam Houston, Texas); Dr. Theobald Smith, Rockefeller Institute, Princeton, N. J.; Prof. F. G. Novy, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

### HELMINTHOLOGY

Prof. Henry B. Ward, University of Illinois, Urbana (chairman); Dr. C. W. Stiles, U. S. Public Health Service, Washington; Dr. Allen J. Smith, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

The war organization of the National Research Council includes a division on Medicine and related sciences of which Dr. Richard M. Pearce, a member of the Council, is chairman. The committee on medical zoology is a section of this division.