A POTENTIAL INTERMEDIATE HOST OF SCHISTOSOMA MANSONI

ALTHOUGH as close as the West Indies and parts of South America, schistosomiasis has never become established in the continental United States nor are there present in this country any of the known intermediate snail hosts of the three species of human schistosomes. Because of the possibility of the acquisition of schistosomiasis by troops serving in endemic areas abroad and the return of infected individuals to the United States, experiments are being carried out in this laboratory to determine whether domestic species of snails are capable of serving as intermediate hosts for these schistosomes. We[1] have already reported negative results following efforts to infect eleven species and subspecies of native snails with *Schistosoma mansoni*. Lest those results engender a false sense of security, it is deemed advisable to report promptly recent experimental evidence which indicates that the snail, *Tropicorbis havanensis*, is suitable for development of the intermediate stages of *S. mansoni*. Six juveniles of *T. havanensis* measuring about 3 mm in diameter were exposed to infection by adding on three occasions eggs and miracidia of *S. mansoni* to the water of the finger-bowl aquarium. Thirty-one days after the first exposure and 24 days after the last exposure schistosome cercariae were noted in the water. Only one of the 6 snails proved to be infected; from 1 to 16 emerging cercariae per day were observed on 12 of the ensuing 17 days.

The snails used in the experiment were laboratory reared progeny of specimens obtained through the cooperation of Drs. Harold Manter and Arlie Todd; they were collected by the latter from a lake at the edge of the campus of the Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. They were identified as *Tropicorbis havanensis* (Pfeiffer) by Drs. H. A. Rehder and J. P. E. Morrison, of the U. S. National Museum. In the museum's collection, in addition to a considerable number of specimens from various localities in Cuba, there is one lot collected from Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana, and another from near New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas.

It is hoped that this report will stimulate additional research with this and other species of *Tropicorbis*.

ADDENDUM.—Subsequently, of another lot of six *T. havanensis*, two additional specimens have been infected. The original infected snail is still shedding cercariae 52 days after they were first detected.

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CONCERNING THE PROPOSED WORD "ECHOLOCATION"

IN a recent article[1] the word "echolocation" is proposed to describe the process of locating obstacles by means of echoes of sounds emitted vocally or by special instruments.

Rather than introduce a new word it would seem better to use "echo-ranging" or "sound-ranging." These terms are definitive and have been in use for a number of years in underwater acoustics.

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

TELESCOPES

Telescopes and Accessories. By GEORGE Z. DIMITROFF and JAMES G. BAKER. ("Harvard Books on Astronomy.") 307 pp. 146 figures. Philadelphia: The Blakiston Company. 1945. $2.50.

To many persons the instruments and methods used in the study of the stars are fully as intriguing as the results of astronomical research. There is something mystical about a telescope that reveals the wonders of distant worlds. The present work gives an up-to-date popular description of the tools used by astronomers, and though written for the layman the book contains much valuable material for the professional student, and especially for the amateur who builds his own telescope and who is always interested in equipment and means beyond his reach.

The chapters on light and on the principles of the visual telescope give an expansion of the usual material in elementary text-books. Since so much astronomical work is done by photography there is a chapter on the photographic process. The discussion of photographic plates brings to mind the great debt astronomers owe to Dr. C. E. K. Mees, director of the Eastman Kodak Research Laboratories, for continued cooperation in furnishing the newest and best emulsions that can be made. During the past dozen years or so the advancement of observational astronomy has been even more a matter of new photographic plates than of instrumental improvements.

[1] E. B. Cram, M. Jones and W. H. Wright, *Proc. Helminth. Soc. Wash.*, 11: 64–66, 1944.

[1] Donald R. Griffin, SCIENCE, 100: 589–590, December 29, 1944.