Comments and Communications

The Occurrence of *Branchiostoma* (*Amphioxus*) in Mississippi and Louisiana

On July 5, 1951, one of us (HMH), and R. L. Caylor, first found *Branchiostoma* while collecting just below low tide on the tip of Chandeleur Island, La., approximately half a mile from the lighthouse. Subsequent collecting has revealed its presence at the following locations on the outlying islands in Mississippi: Petit Bois Island, Aug. 7, 1951, found by Shoemaker and Caylor; Horn Island, Aug. 16, 1951, found by Caylor, Hefley, and Shoemaker; Ship Island, Aug. 21, 1951, found by Hefley and students of invertebrate zoology at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Ocean Springs.

The specimens occur just below low tide line, usually in 2–4 ft of water, on clean sand bottom. Many were found associated with submerged marine vegetation; others were obtained in open sand.

The animals seem to be structurally quite close to *Branchiostoma caribaeum* Sundeval, 1893, with a few minor differences. In certain respects they resemble *B. bermudae* Hubbs, 1922, but have more myotomes (60 as compared with not more than 57 for *bermudae*). Preliminary counts show the fin rays to fall between 297 and 312, which lies within the range for *B. caribaeum* (227–330). Work on the exact determination of the form is proceeding.

This is the first account of the genus *Branchiostoma* occurring in the islands of Louisiana and Mississippi, and constitutes two state records for the genus.

Harold M. Hefley

Mississippi Southern College

Hurst Shoemaker

University of Illinois, Urbana

ASTIA and GSIS

In a footnote on the first page of our paper "The Planning of Libraries for Military Research Establishments" (*1*), we described the government-sponsored Armed Services Technical Information Agency (ASTIA) as the successor to the unofficial Group for the Standardization of Information Services (GSIS). Shortly after the publication of the paper, we were informed that our definition of this relationship was not quite correct. We also learned that Robert Bray of the Navy Research Section of the Library of Congress had submitted a communication to Science (*2*) in which he pointed out our error.

Although we regret any erroneous impressions created by the footnote in question, we must acknowledge that Mr. Bray's explanation of the relationship of the unofficial GSIS to the official ASTIA is more accurate than our explanation only because his is more current. Our paper was submitted to Science in February 1951; we were notified of its acceptance in April 1951; and it was published in July 1951. During this six-month period drastic changes in the character of the relationship of the two bodies apparently occurred.

We deduced the relationship that we described in our paper from a statement in the published proceedings of the *Symposium on Standardization in Technical Information Services for Government Contractors* (*3*) held in New York on Jan. 29, 1951. The statement, made by Eugene Scott, chairman of the symposium, in answer to the question "What is the relation of GSIS to ASTIA?" was as follows: ". . . GSIS is a sort of stepchild of ASTIA, which we hope will be adopted when ASTIA grows of age."

From the foregoing statement, and from similar remarks made at public meetings by other members of the unofficial Group for the Standardization of Information Services, we assumed that this was a forerunner, which was eventually to be succeeded or absorbed by the Armed Services Technical Information Agency.

Saul Herner
M. K. Heatwole

Applied Physics Laboratory
The Johns Hopkins University
Silver Spring, Maryland

References

1. Herner, S., and Heatwole, M. K. *Science*, **114**, 57 (1951).
2. Bray, R. S. *Science*, **114**, 622 (1951).
3. Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences. *Symposium on Standardization in Technical Information Services for Government Contractors*; held at the 19th annual mtg., New York, Jan. 29, 1951. New York: IAS, 21 (1951).

Fungicidal Properties of Antihistaminics

In the July 6, 1951, issue of Science (**114**, 15), I read with great interest an account by Reiss and Caroline of "The Metabolism of *Blastomyces dermatitidis*, Antagonists to the Growth-inhibiting Effect of Trimeton Maleate." They reported that *B. dermatitidis* was partially inhibited with 0.0003 *M* trimeton maleate, and the growth of the fungus was completely suppressed at 0.15 *M* concentration. Experimental *B. dermatitidis* infection in mice did not respond to subcutaneous injections of 40 mg/kg trimeton maleate.

Previously I read in the June 23, 1950, issue of Science (**111**, 689) the account by Carson and Campbell of "The Inhibitory Effect of Three Antihistaminics on the Growth of Fungi Pathogenic for Man." They tested pyribenzamine, antistine, and di-phenyl-pyraline against cultures of *Trichophyton, Microsporon, Epidermophyton, Histoplasma, Blastomyces, Cryptococcus,* and *Candida,* and found that di-phenyl-pyraline and pyribenzamine possess properties that are inhibitory to pathogenic fungi.

A year before the paper of Carson and Campbell was published, we carried on experiments on the fungicidal properties of eight antihistaminics; namely, trimeton maleate, chlor trimeton, thephorin, antistine,