226: "The formation of intracellular or intranuclear gels, in other words, would not interfere in the least with enzyme activity." This statement probably is not true.[4, 5]

It should be pointed out that nuclei prepared by my method at pH 6.0–6.2 are not in the same state as they were in the living cell. It is doubtful whether any isolated nuclei could be in exactly the same state unless they were suspended in undamaged cytoplasm itself. The lowering of the pH from cell pH to 6.0–6.2 causes a shrinking of the nuclei and very possibly some coagulation and dehydration of nucleo-protein, which results in a microscopic appearance similar, as Hoerr states on page 226, to that of fixed tissue. Moreover, it should be remembered that the object of the preparation of nuclei at pH 6.0–6.2 was to obtain nuclei which would be satisfactory for enzyme studies, and this was accomplished.

ALEXANDER L. DOUNCE

DIURNAL BEHAVIOR CYCLE IN SPIDERS

IN connection with Dr. Haseman's and Dr. Craig's notes on twilight behavior patterns in horseflies and birds,[1] the following field observations are offered concerning allied characteristics in orb-weaving spiders.

In general, evening brings transition to a phase of greater activity, dawn to a lesser. This may be related to the lesser nocturnal activity of their principal enemies, the wasps and birds. Among locally common species the variation of day-night behavior is especially marked in *E. strix,* relatively slight in *A. aurantia* and *A. trifasciata.* The writer's observations on this point have been mostly with *C. conica* and *E. cavatica.*

If a vibrating tuning fork is opposed to the dorsum of *C. conica,* resting as normally at orb-center, during the daytime, the creature drops a distance not commonly less than three nor more than eighteen inches, and after a few seconds returns. If the fork is presented at night, the fork is instead attacked. The transition from the escape to the attack pattern, which is gradual, and its reverse, may be observed with relative precision by making rounds among a series of nests about sunset and sunrise.

E. cavatica may be similarly observed and more conveniently, as it is the most nearly "social" of locally common species. Dozens of them, in all stages of maturity, with webs intimately interconnected, have been observed on this point in old outbuildings, mostly in central New Hampshire. Till the individual is about one-fifth adult size, it behaves in this respect substantially like *C. conica.* The adult does not exhibit the dropping response, rather a form of "spreading," as elsewhere described,[2] and is generally more aggressive. The dropping response seems to be a function of the size of an individual rather than its species. Small individuals show it in the daytime irrespective of maturity; large ones do not. To the tuning-fork, the dropping response is notably absent in the young *Argiopes.* This dropping response is not an avoidance of the fork as such; small *E. cavaticas* have repeatedly been observed to drop through the tines, held slightly below the resting place in the orb. Also I have observed *C. conica* to drop to the human voice. A farmer once told me of a barnful of young *cavaticas* responding similarly to the blast of a toy horn.

In observations with *E. strix* and *E. insularis* it has been possible in some sort to restore the daytime pattern of behavior by crude artificial illumination (electric or acetylene handlamps). *Strix* goes back, after minutes, to its daytime retreat. In *insularis,* the main change recalled is the replacement of "seizing" the fork, by the less aggressive "spreading" pattern, though retreat may be expected to ensue with protracted illumination.

In *E. insularis* and *E. trifolium,* around sunrise and sunset, response threshold changes have been observed. These species, practically identical in their behavior, spend the daytime in a retreat not usually more than eighteen inches from orb-center, and directly connected to it by a stout thread. If during the daytime the orb is touched with a vibrating tuning-fork, they do not ordinarily emerge. At dusk they emerge of themselves, and they emerge to the tuning-fork more and more readily as dusk approaches. Shortly after they have as normally retreated about sunrise, they can be brought out again by the tuning-fork, but less and less readily as daylight increases. Such observations can easily be made to a desired degree of control with species that frequent buildings, such as *cavatica* or *strix.*

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MORE ABOUT WHITE BLACKBERRIES

A YEAR or so ago I sent you a note about some wild white-fruited blackberries I discovered near Gainesville, Fla., and named the variety *albifructus.* I planted the seed of these berries and in two years had 104 fine bushes in bearing. When the fruit ripened every single berry on all the bushes was black. Near the wild plants from which the white berries were taken there was a patch of normal black-fruited plants. The pollen of these plants was carried to flowers of the white-fruited plants by insects and, black being dominant, the seed produced black-fruited

[5] A. L. Dounce and D. Seibel, *Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.,* 54: 22, 1943.

[1] SCIENCE, 97: 285, 1943; *ibid.,* 99: 125, 1944.

[2] *Psyche,* 43: 11, 1936.