

(b) Wild flies. Among 1232 flies taken in traps in Pasadena and several nearby points in October, November, and December 1936 five mite-infested flies were found. The collections included 13 species and mites were found on individuals of *simulans*, *pseudo-obscura*, and an undescribed species related to *hydei*. Also in a collection of perhaps 150 *hydei* 1 mite-infested fly was found. Unless wild flies are being collected in large numbers this source of infection is not as important as (a).

(c) Other insects. I have twice taken wild specimens of *Eucoila*, (a parasitoid wasp which preys on *Drosophila*) which were mite-infested.

Methods of control. Follow points outlined fully in DIS-6:67-68. The following points should be particularly emphasized. (a) Watch for all stages of the mite as a routine when examining cultures. (b) During infestations keep all cultures in Lysol solution 1:200. (c) Repeatedly clean table tops, all instruments including etherizer, and incubator shelves. (d) Heat is the surest method of killing all stages of the mite in discarded cultures, and it is also the most economical. (e) Rapid transfer of stocks. (f) Use of very tight cotton plugs following Gowen's suggestion (DIS-6:69).

Technical Notes

Altenburg, E. • Stocks.

Most stocks can be kept in vials for 1-2 months without transfer at a temperature of 18°-20° C.

(Vestigial, however, becomes sterile at a low temperature). This is an economical method of keeping stocks, particularly stocks that are not greatly in demand. It is also a good way to keep stocks in duplicate, or during periods of protracted absence of the investigator, as during vacation time.

Demerec, M. Control of mites.

As a preventive measure against the spread of mites we are keeping our culture bottles in galvanized iron pans made to fit our shelves. These pans were

originally filled with a weak cresote solution which was, because of its odor and fast sedimentation, later substituted by a strong soap solution. The object of the solution is to prevent the spread of mites from one culture into another and thus eliminate the source of the infection. Soap solution, however, was found inadequate for mite control. After investigating several possibilities it has been found that light oil is a good medium for this purpose. Upon request, The Standard Oil Co. of New York supplied samples of light oils, non-volatile, non-inflammable, and odorless, out of which the type called Mineral Seal Oil was selected. It has been in use since October 1936, with very satisfactory results. This oil costs 35 cents per gallon in 5 gallon lots, or 17 cents per gallon in barrel lots. To cover bottoms of seventy 12x36x2 inch pans about 30 gallons of oil were used.