

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The World Health Organization has developed a *standard* test for resistance to insecticides in both mosquito larvae and adults—a universally accepted test.

A New Jersey mosquito light trap is a *standard* method for evaluating or studying adult mosquito populations.

Abbott's formula is a *standard* mathematical formula for correcting mortality in a treated group taking into account mortality in the control group.

There is a great need for a set of *standard* tests for evaluating in laboratory and field mosquito adulticides, mosquito larvicides, mosquito repellents, mosquito chemosterilants, etc.

Why not a *standard* method for taking a landing rate count? For determining blood cholinesterase levels in pesticide

applications? Cholinesterase levels in other animals? *Standard* tests for identifying mosquito blood meals? For droplet determinations? *Standard* methods for studying residual activity of chemicals in laboratory and fields?, etc., etc., etc.

If a set of standard methods of analysis could be developed, and published in bulletin form, considerable time and effort would be saved by investigators. Results obtained would be more meaningful. The accuracy of reports would be enhanced. Articles for publication would be shorter because descriptions of methods and procedures could be eliminated.

What are your feelings on this matter?

Jerry Mallack
Maryland Department of Agriculture
College Park

THE EDITOR'S REPLY

First, an editor characteristically has no feelings. He does not let emotions interfere with the strict application of rules or *standards* such as those promulgated in the Council of Biology Editors Style Manual.

Second, we should be thankful that we have as much standardization as we have. Scientific research, regardless of the degree of sophistication, implies academic freedom. A noted academician said that a college professor is one who thinks otherwise. Scientists are in the same category, and all of us are lucky that scientific mosquito workers have accepted a few

standards.

Third, suggestions for additional standards certainly provide challenges for the AMCA. It is through organizations such as ours that progress toward acceptability of procedures and agreement to follow them can best be made. We have a large number of committees. One or more of them or an *ad hoc* committee might acquire the admiration and gratitude of subsequent generations of mosquito workers by developing guidelines and standards—at least some of them—proposed by Mr. Mallack.—W. E. Bickley.