

Service District No. 1, except Vermont. *A. quadrimaculatus* was found in 32 of the 57 zones surveyed, and in a majority of these stations was the predominant species. It was found that the breeding season began somewhat earlier than previously supposed in these areas, as early as the first part of May as far north as Framingham, Mass. Significant hibernation records were obtained, and it was planned to continue the observations in greater detail.

*Anopheles bradleyi* King also occurred in some of the collections made in 1944, in New Jersey and Delaware, and at Orangeburg and New York City.

Control measures were restricted largely to larviciding the *A. quadrimaculatus* breeding places, with clearing and cleaning where feasible, and a limited amount of minor drainage. At Fort DuPont, Delaware, airplane dusting with paris green was employed to treat certain extensive muskrat marshes.

Educational measures were also undertaken, including the direct instruction of state health department employees, district sanitary engineers and others.

Included in the paper is a valuable list of *A. quadrimaculatus* locality records, as established by the collections of the Malaria Control in War Areas group, the literature and from personal communications with other workers. D. L. C.

AN OLD CHEMICAL COMPOUND REVEALED AS AN EXCEEDINGLY POTENT INSECTICIDE. By J. G. Sanders. The Scientific Monthly, Vol. LXII, No. 5, May, 1946; pp. 465-466.

The chemical compound currently known as "benzene hexachloride," or "666," but more accurately designated as "1,2,3,4,5,6-hexachlorocyclohexane," has achieved far less publicity than DDT, but appears actually to be several times more toxic to many insects than DDT. As

pointed out by Mr. Sanders, it has been known for over 100 years, having been discovered by Faraday in 1825; but the knowledge of its potency as an insecticide has been comparatively recent. Of especial interest to persons concerned with mosquito control is the effectiveness of "benzene hexachloride" against mosquitoes and other insects annoying or dangerous to man. The following excerpts from the paper cited are given here in order to bring this interesting compound to the attention of mosquito control workers who may not be aware of its possibilities. "In the control of mosquitoes and flies under varied field conditions as well as in human habitations, the *gamma* isomer has shown amazing toxicity, with a killing power 8 or 9 times that of DDT and about 18 times that of pyrethrins. In field tests, including some in Western Africa and Ceylon, one-half pound per acre of the crude material in the form of dust produced 100 per cent kill of mosquito larvae in 24 hours—an indication of the usefulness of benzene hexachloride in controlling these disease-bearing pests over large areas with applications from airplanes. . . . Benzene hexachloride apparently does not have the long residual effect in controlling houseflies and mosquitoes that is characteristic of DDT. . . . The excellent and informative lecture by R. E. Slade, published and illustrated in *Chemistry and Industry*, October 13, 1945, should be carefully studied by everyone who proposes to carry on studies and experimental work with this promising insecticide. The article is replete with useful information on the chemical and physical properties of the compound. Reported results of early tests on a fairly wide range of injurious insects point to a broad field of usefulness in the control of insect pests of agricultural and horticultural products, domestic animals, and mankind."

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