

PUBLIC HEALTH

Potential Health Menace In New Yellow Fever Mosquito

**Aedes triseriatus, Which Flies From Maine to Florida
And West to Montana, Is Found To Be Potential Carrier**

A NEW potential danger to health has appeared in the form of a widely distributed mosquito that can carry the virus of deadly yellow fever. Discovery of the mosquito's ability to carry this virus is reported by Drs. Byron L. Bennett, Fred C. Baker, and Andrew Watson Sellards. (*Science*, Oct. 28) The find was made in studies at Harvard and Cornell Universities.

Yellow fever is ordinarily carried by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which is found chiefly in tropical and semitropical regions, occasionally getting as far north as Philadelphia in the summer. The new yellow fever carrier, *Aedes triseriatus* by name, is distributed from Maine to Florida and as far west as Montana.

Yellow fever does not exist in the United States today. If, however, a few cases should by a remote chance slip through the quarantine lines, the disease could, with the aid of the newly-discovered carrier, sweep across almost the entire country.

The fact that *triseriatus* has been discovered to be a yellow fever carrier only under laboratory conditions suggests that it probably is not a natural carrier of the disease. If it were, it seems likely that its role would have been discovered much sooner.

Unsolved Problem

Yellow fever, however, has recently proved to be much more of an unsolved problem than it was considered a decade ago or even five years ago. After the demonstration by Walter Reed and his associates that yellow fever was carried by the *aegypti* mosquito, everyone thought eradication of the disease through mosquito control measures was quite possible.

These measures did suffice to free the United States of the disease, but efforts to do the same in Africa and South America have not been so successful. One reason, Rockefeller scientists recently found, is the fact that yellow fever, disguised under the name of jungle fever, exists in much wider territory

than supposed. Another reason is the discovery that it can be carried by insects other than the ordinary yellow fever mosquito. Scientists have recognized this for some time before the present discovery of *triseriatus* as a yellow fever carrier.

Expansion of rapid air travel has brought the yellow fever areas dangerously close to regions like the United States that considered themselves safe from this much-dreaded ailment. This has provided another complication in the yellow fever control problem.

The one fortunate aspect of the sit-

uation is the success of the anti-yellow fever vaccine developed by Rockefeller Foundation scientists within the past few years. Persons living near or in yellow fever areas can be protected by this vaccine and it can also be used to check the spread of yellow fever by giving it to air crew and passengers coming from yellow fever regions.

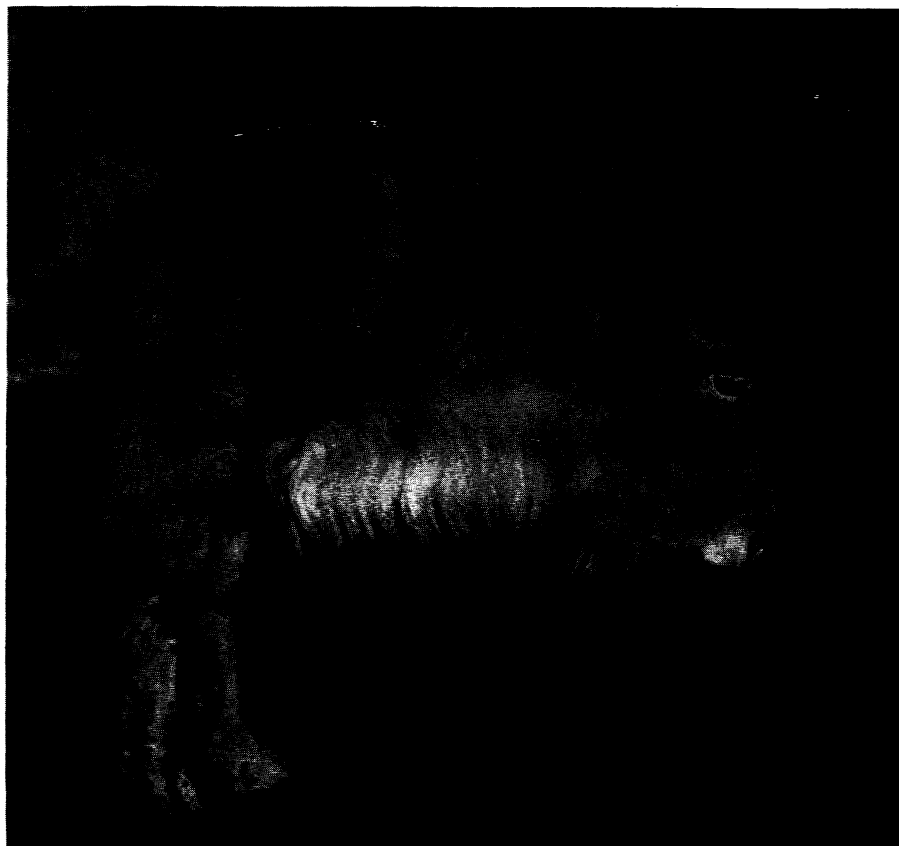
Science News Letter, November 12, 1938

ZOOLOGY

National Zoological Park Has White Bison Bull

A WHITE bison bull, an animal rarer even than the sacred white elephant of Siam, is an inmate of the National Zoological Park. The albino animal was born on the National Bison Range near Moiese, Mont., and was presented to the zoo by the U. S. Biological Survey.

White bison were great rarities even in the days of the vast herds on the western plains, a couple of generations ago. The Indians considered them sac-



RARE

Any bison is rare enough, but a white bison bull like this is rarer than the sacred white elephant of Siam. This one is at the National Zoological Park.