

Science Building Up Case That Itching Caused by Enzymes

By DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor

New York — (U.P.) — Maybe science has found out, at long last, precisely what it is that caused people to itch.

Itching has been a prime mystery. It is "associated" with but not caused directly by a number of diseases. But even the healthiest people itch, in the same way, in the same places.

Two British scientists have built up a convincing case that itching is caused by enzymes, those being chemical substances which needle other chemical substances into activity and change.

Not just any enzymes, said R. P. Arthur and W. B. Shelley in the scientific journal, *Nature*, but only the enzymes with which the body's chemistry breaks down the proteins in food into the "building blocks" — the amino acids — with which it then constructs the body's own proteins.

Use Tropical Plant
Like previous investigators of the how and the why of the itch, they began with the common ingredient used in itching powder. That ingredient is the barbed hair which cover the pods of the tropical plant, *Cowhage*, a most notorious vegetable because it will set anyone to itching violently.

In these barbed hairs they found an enzyme which seemed to be the itcher. That enzyme, so far as known, resides only in *Cowhage*. But it was a clue. They made solutions of many of the enzymes which carry out vital functions in the human body.

Then they removed the enzymes from the barbed hairs of *Cowhage* and soaked the hairs in the solution of human enzymes.

With jeweler's pincers and working under a microscope, they inserted those soaked hairs into human flesh. The proteinase (protein-destroying) enzymes invariably produced itching. None of the other enzymes would. They tried three of the proteinases in pure form. Applying very tiny amounts, they got very emphatic results. Itching started in five seconds and lasted for 30 minutes.

Want Explanation
The scientists thought the enzymes caused the itching by free-

ing a chemical substance from its bondage with another chemical substance. That substance, they said, was histamine, which is a decomposition product of the amino acid, histidine, and stimulates the flow of some of the digestive juices and some digestive muscles. Heretofore, histamine has been the chief suspect. Yet there are some itches which obviously aren't involved with histamine.

The Arthur - Shelley report drew a commentary in the distinguished *British Medical Journal*. Doctors are keenly interested in getting a working explanation of itching. A standard medical reference says: "Itching may be the sole sign of a serious systemic disease, and a such demands careful evaluation."

Jacksonville

Jacksonville — The Flaming Arrow patrol of Jacksonville Boy Scout Troop 35 this week had their first experience in attending a real trial at the Jacksonville courthouse. The boys were impressed with the legal proceedings. Participating were Patrol Leader Edward Graham, Assistant Patrol Leader Pat Hubbard, Jimmy and Charles McCormack, Jack and Jim Sutton, Richard Thieral, George King and Charles Wall. The Scouts were chaperoned by Mrs. E. O. Graham, Mrs. Woodrow McCormack and Mrs. H. W. Sutton. A later visit to the Jacksonville county jail is being planned.

Mike O'Shea of Jacksonville is at the Community hospital this week recovering from surgery. Mrs. Harry Whitney and granddaughter, Miss Martha Whitney, returned last week from Portland. They visited Mrs. Whitney's aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Hunter, Gladstone, and a cousin, Elton Hatan, Portland.

Clarence Surber, Central Point, grandson of Mrs. H. Whitney, is at Community hospital and is able to receive visitors. John Atterberry, Happy Camp, Calif., is a house guest this week at the Harry Whitney home.

Mrs. Robert Hill of the Jacksonville Clothing store has as a guest her sister, Miss Kay Richardson, Cambridge, Ida. Miss Richardson plans to remain to see the Jacksonville Jubilee in August.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Saltmarsh have purchased a home near the old Jacksonville fire station and are moving in this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Patterson, Los Angeles, Calif., spent last week end with Mrs. Esther Darting.

Mrs. Charlotte Evans, Medford, and a guest, Harry Cabbage, Livermore, Calif., visited in Jacksonville Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wright, Chandler, Okla., visited in Jacksonville with their old friend, Mrs. Helen Maples of the Cottage Kitchen, this week. They were enroute on an extended trip throughout the northwest.

Mrs. Engleheart, Medford, spent Wednesday afternoon with Mrs. Lena Johnston in Jacksonville.

Mr. and Mrs. George Demmer and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Dolan spent last Wednesday fishing and picnicking at TouVelle park.

Ben Anderson was honored at a surprise birthday dinner party given by Mrs. Anderson at their home Tuesday evening last week. Guests present were Mr. and Mrs. Richard Souza, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Legg, Mr. and Mrs. Charles McKeen, Mr. and Mrs. Charles McBeth, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Anderson of Medford, and Mr. and Mrs. Ira Brock of Central Point. Entertainment was provided by Richard Souza playing his accordion.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilton Garrett, Glendale, Ore., were week end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Hazen.

The Rev. Harry Ayers, Salem, was a visitor at the Assembly of God church several days last week. He is a representative of the church's extension plan, and held a Thursday evening service at the church. An evening meeting and dinner for the teachers, their husbands, wives and officers of the church was held July 15 at the home of Mrs. W. L. Kimball, Sunset dr., Medford. Twenty-four guests were present, including Mr. Ayers. The problem discussed at the meeting was how to get larger attendance at Sunday school classes.

FORESTRY - U.S.A.



BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE IN THE WOODS AND FORESTS

A Nichol's Worth of . . . Comment On This and That

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS
United Press Feature Writer

Kemano, B. C. — (U.P.) — We were at the 2,600-foot level of the mountain here, looking at nothing in particular but the snow on top, when came a lady bear.

She was followed by her next of kin, two of the cutest teddies you ever did see.

This was the cruel North Country. The concrete-pounding reporters on the trip had come to look at the new Kitimat smelter development, which one day will be the biggest of its kind in the world. Eventually 550,000 tons of aluminum will be processed here annually.

So what do they see but three black bears. The newsmen, financial writers mostly, and therefore on the serious or fact-wise side, were, on this day, in a holiday mood.

Gifted Actress
Every last one, except his character who forgot his Brownie, carried a camera. Most eager of the group was a bright scribe from the New York Times named Jack Ryan.

Jack was trying a new color movie camera on for size. Well, the bear looked a little hungry, so an unnamed member of the group produced a candy bar and pitched it in the direction of the lady bruin. She was interested, and right away started to play Hollywood. She came up real close and our eager colleague, Jack, got the closest of the close and started grinding away.

The bear, whom we named Tebiatha, in honor of the late aunt of one of our crowd, did a few tricks. She stood on her hind legs. She turned and put her hinder to the wind and the while there was a clicking of still black and white cameras from the likes of Nat S. Finney of the Washington bureau of the Buffalo Evening News, and others. Also the movie fellows.

Tebiatha stood up, gulped the last of her sweets and headed for the woods, followed by her family.

I asked Jack what a lady bear looked like, close up. He looked a little miffed.

Unpleasant Surprise
"How do I know?" he said. "But I'll fill you in when I develop these films. But let me tell you something — I know a little about bears."

Jack opened his brand new movie box to reload his film and let out a howl. He hadn't loaded it in the first place, and all the while he had risked life and limb to record something which he never can prove.

"What'll my wife say," he said. "She'll never believe that me, a fine amateur photographer, got so close to a lady bear without bringing back some evidence via film. I feel like a ruined bruin, myself."

"Well," said the unnamed character who provided the sweets, "you caused me to throw away

4-H Club News

Gold Hill Lamb Fair
A trophy for the champion sheep showman will be one of the highlights of the Gold Hill Lamb fair. The fair will be held Thursday, July 21, beginning at 10 a.m., on the property between the Gold Hill Grange hall and the city hall. There will be a food booth where lunch can be bought. Everyone is invited to attend.

Grace Gail,
Chmn. of Publicity.

Big Joke; Dummy Placed in Street

Portland — (U.P.) — A practical joke by two boys nearly cost the life of a man last night. John Van Laningham saw what he thought was the lifeless form of a young boy lying in the street. He jumped in front of an oncoming car and carried the form to the curb only to find it was a dummy.

The car driver, Al Weaver, said he barely missed striking Van Laningham.

State Prison Escapee Captured by Police

Salem — (U.P.) — Harold Walter Poierier, who walked away from a State Prison work gang at Keiser Friday afternoon was captured by police Sunday.

Poierier was found hiding in the basement of a Salem home, and returned to the prison. The escapee, serving a 10-year sentence from Deschutes County for larceny, disappeared while harvesting peas with a work gang.

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Beauty Pageant Judging Slated

Long Beach, Calif. — (U.P.) — Judging in the Miss Universe beauty pageant starts tonight when contest officials select from among 43 American candidates semi-finalists for the title of Miss United States.

Miss U.S.A., who will compete with foreign beauties for the Miss Universe title later this week, will be crowned tomorrow night. Miss Universe eliminations begin Thursday night and five finalists will compete for the top title Friday night.

Contest officials said they would announce today the most popular girl in last Sunday's pageant parade here.

All contestants in the contest, most of whom had never seen a movie studio before, yesterday visited Universal-International Studio which helps sponsor the contest and will offer film contracts to the winner and the four runners-up.

They were escorted from stage to stage by Tony Curtis, Rock Hudson, Jeff Chandler, Victor Mature and numerous other U-I stars.

The San Juan river in Utah flows 8 1/2 miles to advance just one linear mile.

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