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Pestiferous Face Fly Found West Of Mississippi

Washington - (Science Service) - Face flies, the enemy agents that invaded New York from Nova Scotia in 1953, have succeeded in pushing their psychological warfare campaign across the Mississippi river into the central states.

Although not known to be carriers of a fatal disease, these pests can worry a horse or cow to a frazzle by lapping up fluids around the eyes and nose and around open wounds. There are reports that horses are particularly hard to handle after irritating attacks from face flies, and that cows refuse to feed properly and their milk production drops.

The face fly stayed in the New York state area until 1957-1958. Now, in three years, it has spread to every state east of the Mississippi river as far south as Tennessee and West Virginia, and it is making a beeline for the West Coast. Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska have reported the pest. But western Pennsylvania is the hardest-hit area at present.

Not Too Much Known

Entomologist W. G. Bruce of the U.S. Department of Agriculture admits that not too much is known about the fly. There is no known effective control, but a mixture of syrup, water and DDVP is doing some good. DDVP is dichloro - diphenyl - vinyl-phosphate.

This fly does not attack in the shade, inside barns and other buildings. It usually stays out in the bright sunlight except in the fall when the temperature drops.

Some Canadian investigators believe this pest is associated with outbreaks of pink eye (infectious keratitis), but this has not been proved.

One reason the face fly has such a head start is that it looks much like the common house fly. Farmers ignore it at first. There are differences, however, in the head anatomy and in the veins of the wings. There is also a difference in the mouth parts, since the face fly does not bite, but rather laps up fluids.

New Antibiotic Said Effective Against Staph

London - (Science Service) - A newly discovered antibiotic, demethylchlorotetracycline (DMCT), shown to be nearly twice as effective against staphylococcal infection as the older antibiotic tetracycline (TC), is reported in a study of its merits in the current issue of the British Medical Journal.

The report on this antibiotic, by a Boston and London medical team, states the new antibiotic may be "entirely new or prove to be related in structure and action to another already known." Research has been in progress since DMCT was first reported three years ago by Dr. J. R. D. McCormick and his associates at the Lederle Laboratories, Pearl River, N.Y.

Drs. Maxwell Finland of Harvard Medical School and L. P. Garrod of the University of London, aided in part by a National Institutes of Health grant, report observations after studying voluminous works of researchers, published and unpublished.

Merits Undecided
 Although the final merits of this new antibiotic have not been decided, the investigators point out the following advantages:

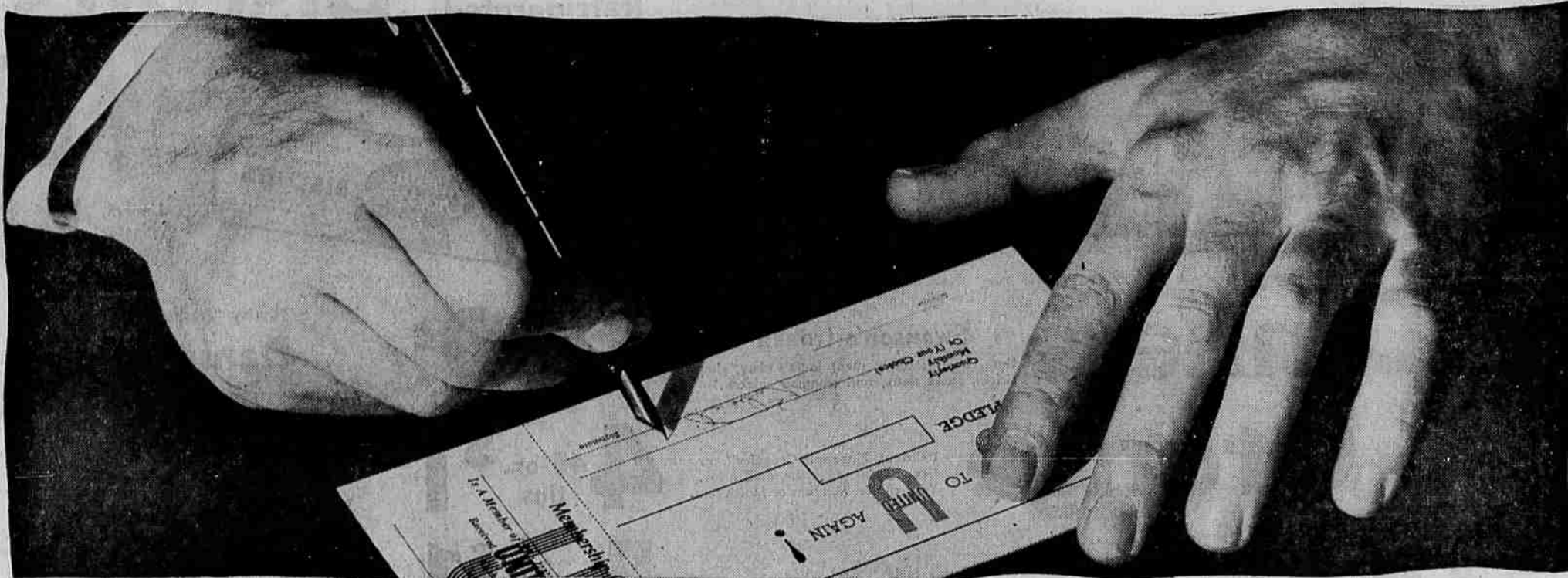
1. DMCT has high stability.
2. Its activity against most bacteria exceeds that of TC by approximately two fold. (Only two daily doses are required, which is an important advantage for patients requiring sleep.)
3. Urine elimination is less than half that of TC, allowing higher concentrations of DMCT to remain in the blood for a much longer time after a dose.

Device Cuts Haze But Fails in Fog

Washington - (Science Service) - Ships' pilots can cut through smoke and haze with an infrared light system described to an international conference on navigational aids here by Japanese researchers.

They said the infrared rays in a system called Noctovision can penetrate about 2,000 yards. A man with equipment to convert the invisible rays into a visible image could easily detect buoys and obstructions ahead.

But Noctovision is not much good in fog or rain, the researchers admitted. The conference is sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard.



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