



THE BUG WORLD
BY J. V. Verrees & Mac Epley

Insects always create a great interest among nature study classes and among the public in general. The insect world has many things that fascinate us. One of the most interesting is the "Dead-leaf" butterfly which we find in the woods and thickets. These butterflies, as you know, have a pattern on their wings up together that makes the perfect position of a leaf attached to the twig. Lower portion of the hind wing have a small part of that juts out resembling a stem from this twig imitation. The color of the whole and wings exactly duplicate a leaf.

Several insects have classic ways in which they get their young into places of unlimited food supply. There is the case of a small beetle which wouldn't dare go into a bee's nest and deposit its eggs but the eggs are found there. Scientists have tracked down the method and find that the female deposits its eggs close to flowering plants, near the blossom.

The little larvae that hatches from this egg will slowly crawl up the stem and lurk among the petals of a blossom until a wild bee lights to get her load of pollen or nectar. Quick as a flash the young beetle larva attaches itself to the hair on the bees back and away they go, passenger using the bee as its air transport back to the nest.

Here in the nest the larva lets go. It has found its proper home a place where it will be supplied with ample food until it transforms into an adult beetle. Not all larvae attach themselves to the right kind of insect but enough do to carry on the species by means of this free transportation system.

In the tropics there is a long-grasshopper which possesses which have taken on the color and shape in order to look like a leaf. The wings, which are edged with irregular patches look as though the leaf has been eaten away by an insect, leaving only a net of leaf veins visible as they perfectly still on their host. Other insects or birds which prey on these grasshoppers are fooled in thinking they are dead-damaged leaf.

"Stick" insects in the United States look like nothing more than a broken piece of twig since their bodies are brownish, jointed, and extremely long and slender. Just like most any twig off a bush. These are ways by which nature has adapted these various insects to protect themselves by looking like something else.

PETUSSIN
Acts AT ONCE to relieve
CROUPY NIGHT COUGHING
CAUSED BY COLDS



MOBILE SOIL TESTER — The Kettle Farm Management Service, Walla Walla, Wash., recently began serving Pacific Northwest farmers with this mobile laboratory, thought to be the only one of its kind west of the Mississippi — and possibly the only privately owned lab in the U.S. (Center Picture) Agronomist Warren G. Marshall works in the lab. Bottom, left to right, Harley Jacquot, noted McGregor Land and Livestock Co. agronomist; Warren Marshall, KFMS agronomist, and Edwin F. Kettle, head of the Kettle Farm Management Service.

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Virus, Cheese Don't Make for Production

OREGON STATE COLLEGE — Not even bacteria—at least the strains used in the manufacture of cheese and cultured milk—are free from the detrimental effects of viruses.

Research at Oregon State College has shown that minute viruses or bacteriophages, constitute a serious stumbling block in the production of cottage, cheddar and blue cheese and buttermilk. The phage attack and destroy the lactic acid producing bacteria that are essential in the manufacture of these products and either halt or slow down their development.

The seriousness of the phage problem, OSG bacteriologists—V.N. Smith, R. B. Parker and Dr. Paul R. Eiliker—have found, has been greatly underestimated. In 23 cases of serious "starter failure" in Oregon dairy plants last year 21 were traced to bacteriophage. In the other two cases, there was some evidence that antibiotics were to blame.

The antibiotics, which come either from udder injections for mastitis streptococcus organisms growing in milk, have received a great deal of attention in recent years as the cause of starter failures.

While the presence of antibiotics in milk is undesirable, findings indicate this situation probably has been unduly over-emphasized.

Sanitation procedures to eliminate the entry of phage and the use of strains of resistant lactic acid bacteria will overcome the phage problem. Resistant cultures are developed by exposing ordinary sensitive strains to high concentrations of the viruses and then selecting the tough cells that survive this "sink-or-swim" treatment.



The result is a "super race" of lactic acid bacteria resistant to some phages that previously attacked them.

The OSG department of bacteriology is assisting individual Oregon dairy plants in outlining sanitation procedures and with culture-phage attacks.

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