



## BIOLOGY

# War Brings Renewed Danger Of Invasions By Insect Foes

**Experienced Quarantine Officials Called to Colors May Be Replaced By Inexperienced Men; Hurry Involved**

**B**OMBING PLANES and clanking tanks are not the only dangerous things that cross national boundaries when war comes. Invaders that stay on and continue their depredations even after human beings have cried quits are part of the hazards of war, Dr. E. R. Sasscer of the U. S. Department of Agriculture pointed out in his presidential address before the American Association of Economic Entomologists, meeting in Columbus with the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

After reviewing the attempts on the part of insects to invade and conquer America in the past, Dr. Sasscer called attention to the perils of the present situation.

"There are some who are prone to conclude that the disturbed shipping facilities, which result when wars are in progress, curtail the volume of imports and when such conditions obtain, the risk of importing injurious insects is insignificant. Our experience in the last World War does not support this theory, for during those turbulent days many of the experienced plant quarantine officials, in the countries involved, were called to the colors and their work

turned over to less experienced inspectors, resulting in decreased efficiency.

"Furthermore, there is no assurance that a product normally imported from a certain European country will not be imported from another country when wars intervene to disrupt commercial relations. Indeed, it may be noted that the effects of the present war on the sanitary condition of certain types of plant material have already been evident, due perhaps to an effort to dispose of as many plants as possible while shipping conditions permitted."

*Science News Letter, January 6, 1940*

## Tiny Insect Ally

**H**ONORS were conferred on a tiny insect ally used by man in his ceaseless war against crop and orchard pests, when J. E. Webb, Jr., and C. H. Alden of the Georgia State Department of Entomology told how effective had been the aid of a gnat-sized wasplet known as *Trichogramma minutum* in abating the ravages of codling moth and fruit moth in Georgia's famous peach and apple orchards.

During the past ten years, they said, armies of these midget warriors total-

ing more than 300 millions have been raised and turned loose to range the orchards. They lay their microscopic eggs within the eggs of the moths, and the minute but hungry larvae destroy the pests by literally boring from within. Thousands of moth eggs have been collected and examined, with results showing that more than half the codling moth eggs, and well over a third of the fruit moth eggs, had been "torpedoed" by the little wasp.

*Science News Letter, January 6, 1940*

## Mosquitoes Hibernate

**M**ALARIA mosquitoes in the Tennessee Valley spend the winter in caves like bats, living on the accumulated fat stored in their bodies, it was announced by Drs. E. Harold Hinman and H. S. Hurlbut of the Tennessee Valley Authority. The specimens they found in their searchings were all adult females that had been mated, so that they were ready to develop and lay their eggs as soon as warm weather came.

"Hibernating females in caves have survived as long as 69 days without food," Dr. Hinman stated. "The temperature ranged from 51.5 to 59 degrees Fahrenheit between Dec. 16 and Jan. 27 in one cave where continuous record was kept. A renewal of reproductive activity occurs early in February and the overwintering females leave the caves at this time."

*Science News Letter, January 6, 1940*

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