

ENTOMOLOGY

Screwworm Border Patrol

► AN UNUSUAL border patrol will be stationed in south Texas for the purpose of combating a million-dollar-a-year insect pest. The guards are the male insects.

Sterile male screwworms are being produced in a new "factory" located at an old Air Force base near Mission, Texas. They are to be spread as an artificial barrier along the Mexican border, U. S. Department of Agriculture scientists told SCIENCE SERVICE. They are part of a multi-million dollar program to stop infestation by these livestock pests.

The barrier patrol will actually consist of three main parts, of which the sterile male flies will be a part. Two-thirds of the money, however, will be spent for controlling animal movements in, out or through the strip and surveillance and treatment of animals residing in the area.

The new screwworm-fly-rearing plant will be capable of producing 50,000,000 to 75,000,000 sexually sterile flies each week within a month after dedication on June 16, the scientists said. It replaces a temporary rearing plant located near Kerrville, Texas, which has been producing about 25,000,000 flies a week.

Officials do not yet know how wide the artificial barrier must be to control the native screwworm population. They are unsure of the numbers of flies needed in each square mile. But the effectiveness of a former Florida campaign to destroy the insects has given scientists a good estimate. From this they must experiment and decide the effective width.

The screwworm flies lay eggs along margins of wounds of warm-blooded animals, especially in the navel of newborn livestock. The larvae eat the tissue or blood of these animals, causing damage and death to the host.

GENERAL SCIENCE

News From Science Clubs

► AS THE 1961-62 school year ends, science clubs are reporting their successful science and community activities to Science Clubs of America.

SPARTIFIC SCIENCE CLUB at Hilo Intermediate School, Hilo, Hawaii, has co-sponsored a science camp and sponsored a school science fair, lectures and field trips.

FRANKLIN SCIENCE CLUB at the Franklin Senior High School, Stockton, Calif., sent Science Demonstration Teams to other schools and held a Science Open House for their parents.

The members of the BI-PHY-CHEM CLUB at the Warren High School, Bowling Green, Ky., worked together for funds for the club to visit the U.S. Atomic Energy Plant at Oak Ridge, Tenn.

The COCHRAN SCIENCE CLUB of Cochran Junior High School, Johnstown, Pa., sent a gift subscription for SCIENCE

NEWS LETTER to a student in Indonesia with other books and materials.

THE SCIENCE CLUB members at the Tottenville High School, Staten Island, N. Y., have made classroom demonstrations and tutored other students in biology.

• Science News Letter, 81:411 June 30, 1962

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Paper Cup Becomes Gypsy Moth Trap

► FROM PICNIC table to the war against the gypsy moth is the path taken by the common paper cup.

The paper cup modified into an insect trap is open at both ends and lined with water resistant polyethylene. Devised by the American Can Company, they are less expensive and easier to handle than the old type metal traps.

The gypsy moth, introduced from Europe 93 years ago, has spread over 40,000,000 acres in the United States. Now confined to the northeast part of the country and a small part of Michigan they threaten to spread to the Ozarks and the Midwest.

A key part of the fight against these moths is a trapping program conducted by the Department of Agriculture. The male moth is lured by a synthetic chemical into the paper cup traps placed on branches of trees. Expecting to find a female moth in the cup, it is caught in the tanglefoot spread on the inner surface.

• Science News Letter, 81:411 June 30, 1962



HARRY ROSS

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