

13706

Course of Infections with the 3H2 Strain of *Plasmodium cathemerium* in Canaries.

HARRY BECKMAN.*

From the Department of Pharmacology, Marquette University School of Medicine, Milwaukee, Wisc.

The American Society of Parasitologists having given to the strain of *Plasmodium cathemerium* which I have transferred in this laboratory exclusively by mosquito bite since obtaining it from Huff at the University of Chicago, in March, 1938, the designation of "3H2", I wish to record here the course of infections with this strain. For the purpose of the study, 60 uninfected canaries were each bitten by 1 *Culex pipiens* mosquito presumably carrying the sporozoites of this plasmodium, *i. e.*, the mosquitoes had all fed on birds having large numbers of gametocytes of both sexes in the peripheral circulation and, for 10 days or more after the blood meal, had been maintained in a room whose relative humidity is kept at 65% and temperature at 80 F (26.5°C).

The findings may be summarized as follows: (a) of the 60 birds 46 became infected and 44 of these died, thus giving an infection rate of 76.6% and a mortality rate of 95.6%; (b) the incubation period varied from 4 to 11 days but was only 5 to 6 days in 82.6% of instances (in studies not included in the present report I have observed an incubation period of 3 days in one instance and 14 days in another); (c) the duration of fatal infections varied from 1 to 17 days but was from 4 to 9 days in 84.0% of instances; (d) the duration of the active infection in the 2 birds which recovered was 12 and 17 days respectively.

Conclusion. The 3H2 strain of *P. cathemerium* is a very virulent agent when transmitted as indicated in the designation; *i. e.*, exclusively through the bite of infected *C. pipiens* mosquitoes.

* Partially supported by an Eli Lilly and Company grant.