centrated food supply for *Ethmalosa* than that in the sea at the mouth. Since this fish does not appear to select food organisms individually, it may only be able to feed efficiently in such dense concentrations of microplankton. The main centres of the *Ethmalosa* fishery appear to be in brackish-water localities, and it is possible that this connexion is related to the occurrence of high standing crops of phytoplankton.

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Haplosporangium in an Additional Rodent Host, *Microtus pennsylvanicus* Drummond

SINCE 1942¹, there has been an increase in the number of reports on haplomycosis in rodents and other animals trapped in the United States, Canada and England. Two recent reports from Canada and Sweden describing further isolations of the causative organism *Haplosporangium* were those published by Bakerspigel² and Jellison³.

Fig. 1a. A thick-walled spherule of *Haplosporangium* in a stained section of lung from an infected vole. $\times 1,350$

Fig. 1b. Numerous nodules in formalin-fixed lung of a vole infected with *Haplosporangium*. $\times 9$

I now record the finding of *Haplosporangium* in the lungs of an additional host, the meadow vole *Microtus pennsylvanicus* Drummond. So far as I am aware, this fungus has been detected in only one animal of another species of vole, *M. agrestis*, trapped in England by Tevis⁴ at Camp Blandford, Dorset.

During a survey of fungus diseases in rodents conducted during June-September 1956, twenty-five voles were trapped in various areas of Saskatchewan. Upon dissection, the lungs of two voles were observed to be covered with numerous, small, pearl-grey nodules as shown in Fig. 1b. These voles had been trapped on the outskirts of Saskatoon near the city disposal unit. Hæmatoxylin- and eosin-stained sections of the lungs revealed massive infections with large numbers of spherules typical of the pulmonary fungus, *Haplosporangium parvum*. Fig. 1a shows one of the many thick-walled spherules found in the lungs of an infected vole.

This finding adds another host to the mounting list of animals, in the lungs of which the spherules of *Haplosporangium* have been observed. Studies with cultures of *Haplosporangium* isolated from infected voles and other rodents trapped in Saskatchewan are being made for comparison with existing North American strains.

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A Response of Worker Ants to Dead Ants of their Own Species

A STUDY similar to that reported recently¹ was made last summer into the response of worker ants (*Formica fusca*) to dead specimens of their own species. The results of this preliminary observation are those averaged over four observation periods. These are presented in Table 1. From this it will be noted that at least two factors influence response: (1) a state of unrest, caused by a disturbance of the nest (for example, by mechanical force; introduction of members of another colony), this action considerably reducing the retreat response; (2) distance of the dead ant from the nest entrance; where this is less than 4 cm. there is a strong response on the first encounter to remove the dead ant.

Obviously other factors associated with degree of activity influence this response, as was found when a dead ant was placed near a rich food supply

Table 1. RESPONSE OF WORKER ANT TO DEAD SPECIMENS IN FOUR SITUATIONS
Figures are expressed in percentages. The number of specimens encountering the dead specimens in this series of observations averaged 25 for the first three and 18 for the last situation

Dead specimen	Retreat	Attempt to remove	No response
On trail: from same colony	92	4	4
On trail: from another colony	72	18	10
On trail: from same colony. State of unrest	4	8	88
Within 4 cm. of nest entrance; of same colony	11.5	88.5	0