

A Dangerous New Stonefish from Western Australia

A NEW species of the genus *Inimicus*, belonging to the family Synanceidae from Western Australia, has been described by R. J. McKay, of the Fisheries Department, Perth, Western Australia, and compared with other members of the genus (*Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia*, 47, Part 1; 1964). *Inimicus cirrhosus* differs from all others of the genus in that it possesses yellow spots on the inner surface of the pectoral fin, which is described as "dark brown, almost black with indistinct pale cross-bars and variable blotches on outer surface. Inner surface brown to blackish, with 20 to 35 white (in life bright yellow) spots of indefinite shape". In larger examples, the yellow spots are more diffuse and frequently in the form of ocelli. McKay adds some notes on the severity of the sting: the species is capable of inflicting an extremely agonizing wound. The following notes were made early in October 1960, after the author was stung on the thumb. "The pain was immediate and intense, the wound bled very freely for a few minutes, then ceased. Bleeding was difficult to restart. Pain became rapidly unbearable. 1145 h. While sorting a trayful of fish emptied from trawl left thumb deeply penetrated by dorsal fin of *Inimicus*. Bleeding freely. 11.50 h. Bleeding stopped. 11.55 h. Thumb swollen, area around wound becoming grey-blue in colour, extremities of fingers becoming very painful, pain in thumb almost unbearable. Elbow and shoulder now aching. 12 midnight. Sweating profusely, thumb and hand swollen, wrist very stiff, area around wound bluish, throat and mouth dry. 0005 h. Became delirious, do not remember much, but can remember throwing myself about cabin in fearful pain. Crew members restrained my movements for the next 30 minutes, during which I was screaming and complaining of pains around the neck and chest. 0045 h. Regained consciousness, the pain in arm and shoulder very agonizing. 0115 h. Hand and thumb immersed in hot water and sedatives taken. 0200 h. Pain still present but greatly diminished. Thumb remained stiff and swollen for four days, but the pain had subsided 12 hours after the encounter. Bathing the wound in hot water greatly reduced the pain, but when the water became cool enough to be comfortably borne, the pain returned. A tourniquet was not applied."

Rhizobial Nitrogen Fixation in African Acacias

RHIZOBIAL nitrogen fixation, previously reported in *Acacia cyclops*, has also been shown to occur in *A. cyanophylla* by Prof. E. R. Roux and C. C. G. Marais (*South African Journal of Science*, 60; July 1964). These trees are invasive exotics of Australian origin, now widespread in the Western Cape. Root nodules have so far not been found on any of the indigenous South African acacias examined. However, four species (*A. karroo*, *A. robusta*, *A. sieberiana* and *A. gircaffae*) were successfully inoculated with rhizobia derived from nodules on *A. cyclops*. Nodule formation and nitrogen fixation occurred in all cases.

University News :

THE following appointments have been announced: *Senior Lectureships*, A. E. Bursill and J. J. Cowley (psychology). *Lectureships*, Dr. J. M. Hay, Dr. J. H. Holloway and Dr. G. P. McQuillan (chemistry); J. Henderson (forestry); C. K. Mackay and G. Rochford (psychology); G. A. Myers (statistics). *Research Fellowships*, I. Patterson (natural history); Dr. J. Paul (soil science).

Aberdeen

Belfast

DR. I. CAMPBELL RODDIE has been appointed to the Dunville chair of physiology in the Queen's University of Belfast.

Sheffield

DR. J. M. GANI, visiting professor of statistics, Michigan State University, has been appointed to the chair of statistics. The following appointments have also been announced: *Lectureships*, Dr. D. J. Brown (fuel technology and chemical engineering); C. C. Heyde (statistics); Dr. N. Birks (metallurgy); F. Booth (applied mathematics); J. K. Clarkson (psychology); G. J. Roberts (glass technology); G. Sedman (psychiatry); T. Shelley (medical physics in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology). *Research Fellowships*, A. T. Davenport (Ironmongers' Company research fellowship in metallurgy); F. Wallstrom (sociological studies).

Announcements

MR. R. F. LETHBRIDGE, head of the Mining and Exploration Department of the Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation, Ltd., has been elected president of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy for 1965-66. Mr. Lethbridge has served on the Council of the Institution since 1955, holding the office of vice-president from 1963.

ENTRIES for the 1965 Maccabaeian Prize and Medal of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries are invited for an essay of 5,000-7,000 words on some aspect of the history of medicine or pharmacy. Intending candidates, who must be under thirty years of age on March 15, 1965, may apply for further particulars to Dr. F. N. L. Poynter, Wellcome Historical Medical Library, Wellcome Building, Euston Road, London, N.W.1, who is honorary secretary of the Faculty of the History of Medicine and Pharmacy of the Society.

THE second Texas symposium on "Relativistic Astrophysics" will be held in Austin, Texas, during December 15-18. Further information can be obtained from Mrs. J. Wardlaw, Department of Physics, University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78712.

THE twenty-second session of the International Geological Congress will be held in New Delhi during December 14-22. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary General, XXII International Geological Congress, Geological Survey of India, 27 Chowringhee, Calcutta 13.

THE third conference on "Performance of High Temperature Systems" will be held in Pasadena, California, during December 7-9. The conference will be devoted primarily to the application of fundamentals to the analysis and computer evaluation of the performance of high-temperature systems. Further information can be obtained from Mr. G. S. Bahn, 16902 Bollinger Drive, Pacific Palisades, California 90272.

THE 1964 Reith Lectures will be delivered by Sir Leon Bagrit in the B.B.C. Home Service on "The Age of Automation". The series will include lectures on: automation, an extension of man (November 8); the range of applications (November 15); education for an age of automation (November 22); some political considerations (November 29); some industrial and economic consequences (December 6); new opportunities for social enrichment (December 13). The Lectures will be repeated in the Third Programme and will also be heard in the Overseas Service. Further information can be obtained from the British Broadcasting Corporation, Broadcasting House, Portland Place, London, W.1.

ADDENDUM. Mr. J. Liebster has supplied the following references which were omitted from his joint communication with V. Kočandrlje entitled "Exchange Labelling of 'Lipiodol' Ultra Fluids with Iodine-131 and its Intralymphatic Administration with a Fistula on the Thoracic Duct" (*Nature*, 203, 777; 1964):

¹¹ Liebster, J., Kácl, J., and Babieky, A., *Nature*, 183, 1474 (1959).

¹² Liebster, J., and Andryšek, O., *Nature*, 184, 913 (1959).

¹³ Product of Laboratories André Guerbet et Cie, Saint-Ouen-Paris (Seine).