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ASP Newsletter

Vol 35. No. 1.

Spring, 2013

The American Society of Parasitologists

Newsletter

Usually Published Quarterly by the American Society of Parasitologists

Newsletter: Published: 8 June 2013

Sincerely,



Scott Lyell Gardner, Ph.D.
Manter Laboratory



From the Editor

Consider publishing your parasite poems, posting a link to your favorite "parasite lecture," providing an actual parasite lecture, or otherwise send "something" in to the editor.

Your contribution is valuable and anything sent in to me will be considered for publication.

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REPORT TO THE ASP NEWSLETTER FROM ERIC S. LOKER

Dear ASP Newsletter Readers,

Serving as ASP President has been quite an experience: eye-opening, at times demanding and humbling, but one that has reminded me that our Society has a great deal to offer our members, and the world. ASP is an amazing incubator of young scientific talent, supports a great journal with a dynamic new editor, and sponsors meetings with a distinctive and valuable approach to the study of parasitology.

The following report is to briefly fill you in on some of the issues that ASP has been involved with in the past year, and to give you some of my impressions as an out-going president of things we need to work on in the future. Of course our annual meeting in Quebec City (great venue – should be exciting - practice your French) is fast approaching (26-29 June), and I hope to see many of you there.

First, as you know, we have a long-standing, intimate relationship with our regional affiliate societies which serve as a source of new members and scientific talent for ASP. Based on what I've seen this past year at the three regional meetings I've attended, and based on reports I have heard from other such meetings, the regional meetings have been well-attended and are providing a vibrant student-friendly environment for communications about parasites. ASP needs to continue to strengthen our linkages to the regional meetings, such that members of regional societies know about ASP, become members, and are encouraged to attend our national meeting. In general, I've been pleased to see the evident vitality of our regional meetings!

Thanks largely to the efforts of Dr. Bruce Conn's ad hoc Publishing Contract Committee with follow-up approval from ASP Council, we have a new three-year publishing contract to continue our long-standing association with Allen Press. The discussion surrounding contract approval was spirited and pointed out the need for us to remain very mindful of profound changes ongoing in the publishing industry and how they will affect our Society's future.

In addition to renewing our relationship with Allen Press, we have also made an important transition in the editorial office of *The Journal of Parasitology*: After serving 19 years and processing nearly seven thousand manuscripts, Dr. Gerald W. Each decided to step down as Editor. Wow – what a



legacy! Thanks to Dr. Esch for all he has done on our behalf. We are fortunate to have a creative scientist, Dr. Mike Sukhdeo, take over the editorial reins. He has lots of good ideas for how to increase the journal's impact, and our Society's scientific visibility. We need to do all we can to support his creative efforts on our behalf.

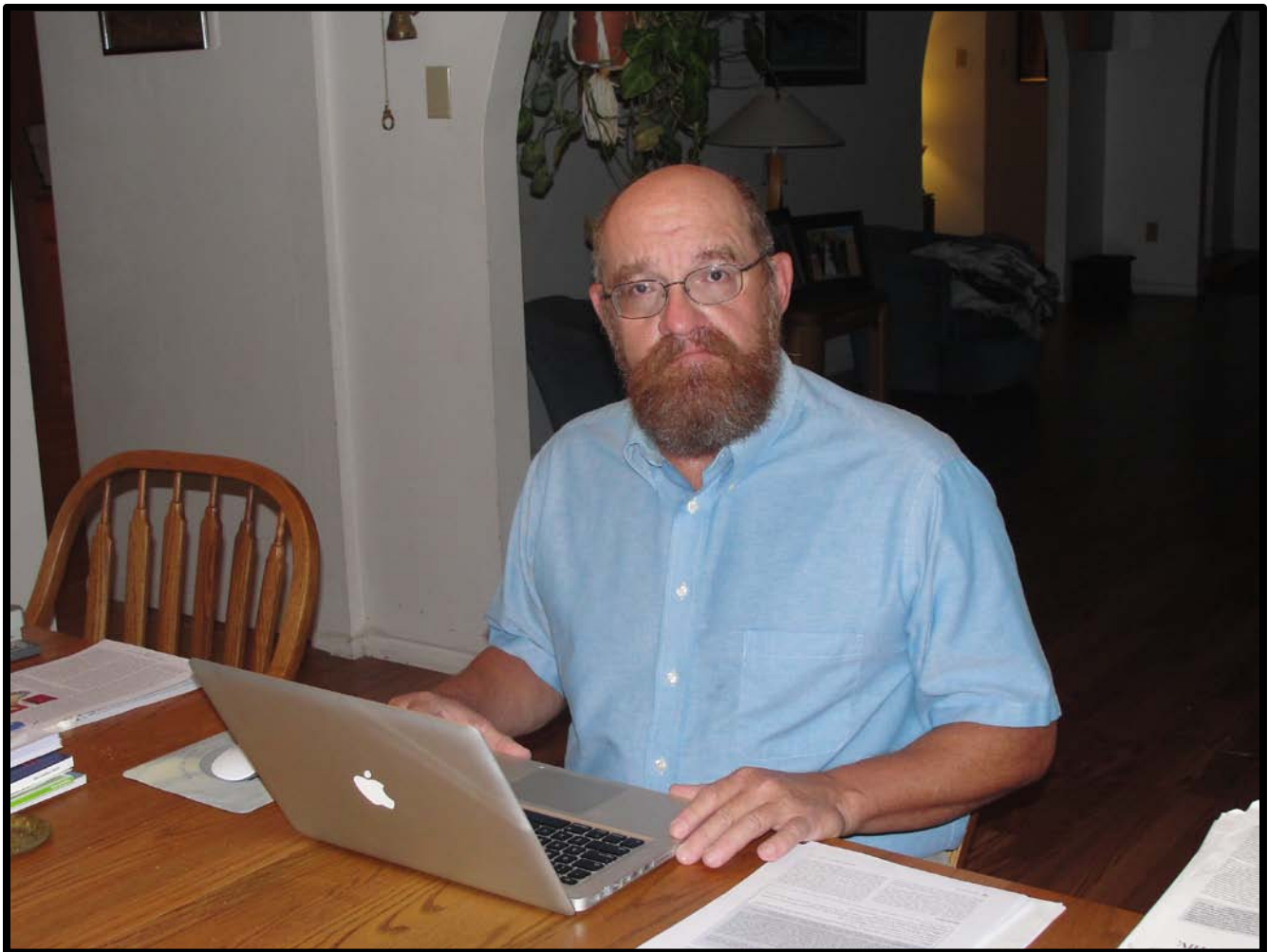


Figure 1. Sam - hard at work on Society business at his home in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Regarding our Society's finances, our Secretary-Treasurer has been doing a remarkable job keeping us in good financial shape and protecting our investments. The S-T's job would be ever so much easier though, if we had more discretionary operating funds. Additionally, having more financial resources would help support more student travel to meetings, membership and outreach initiatives, and attract more prominent symposium speakers to our meeting. To help generate new funds, we have largely reconstituted our Business Advisory Committee and charged them with finding new ways to generate revenues, including devising ways to make it easier to make gifts to ASP. Additionally, we



have entered a new agreement with Allen Press to let advertising space in the journal as a new way to generate revenues.

To try to offset a continuing downward trend in membership, we have been working to identify parasitologists who are not members and sending them personal invitations to join ASP. We also need to be sure that all attendees at our regional meetings are offered membership. We also encourage student advisors to pay for ASP membership for their students, and encourage each and every ASP member to try to recruit one new member each year.

As president, one of my initiatives has been to try to use our Society's influence to help secure a new, permanent home the U.S. National Parasite Collection which is an essential resource for many of our members. The USDA currently manages the collection but has expressed an interest in moving it elsewhere. With the backing of Council, we have contacted the USDA expressing our concern about the collection's long-term prognosis, and our willingness to work with them to find a new home for the collection. The USDA has responded favorably to our initiative, and to keep momentum building, I established an ad hoc ASP committee chaired by Dr. Janine Caira to continue to communicate with the USDA, the Smithsonian, and any other relevant parties to seek solutions for establishing a new home where the collection can reach its full scientific potential. I am happy to say that legitimate new leads regarding a home for the collection seem to be emerging. Although the issue is far from resolved, it is at least now being actively considered after a long period of stasis.

I wanted to conclude my message by pointing out some things we need to work on in the future. First, ASP needs to do a better job in promoting our scientific products. Our journal, with its new editor, is one important way to tackle this issue. We also need to do a better job in recounting the scientific accomplishments of our members, particularly via the vehicle of our website (see my suggestions below regarding committee restructuring). Also, we need to communicate more with groups like private foundations with interests in parasitology to increase our visibility and opportunities for our members. One such contact has been made this past year, and although it may not have yielded any new resources for ASP, it has put us on their radar screen as a source of talented young scholars who could be of great assistance in advancing their agenda. We need to continue to pursue such connections in the future.

Second, after getting a better feel over the past three years for how ASP operates, my impression is that our current committee structure is bloated and could be more responsive to our needs. Currently ASP has about 18 standing committees, eight of which are devoted to selection of awardees. At the same time, we currently do not have an Outreach or Publicity Committee. I suggest that the Society consider reducing the number of awards committees by half. Also, I think trying to develop a committee charged with promotion and outreach would help us increase our visibility. This committee could, for example, line up ways to publicize the results of each national meeting in widely-read venues, make better connections to the regional societies to inform



them of ASP and pipeline their members to our Membership Committee, or could develop feature stories or news vignettes regarding ASP members. Perhaps most importantly, this committee could be charged with updating and monitoring our website to make it a better recruiting and promotion tool, and making sure the site provides logical and functioning links to all the activities covered on the site. In general, we need to make more and better use of our website to broadcast our scientific accomplishments.

In conclusion, ASP is a venerable institution that has established many great traditions for promoting our discipline, one that in many ways is more relevant than ever. Our scientific impact though has been underappreciated and we need to enhance that visibility and in the process grow our membership if we are to thrive as a society. While respecting our traditions, we must also be willing to change with the times and make it clear our work is very much relevant to the modern world. There are some exciting times lying ahead for ASP, including in 2014 a meeting in New Orleans and the production of a centennial volume for JP. In general, if we are bold, adaptable, and can do a better job of promotion, our best days lie ahead.

I've really enjoyed the opportunity to serve as ASP's President. My sincere thanks to all of you for giving me this chance.

Best regards,

Eric S. Loker
May, 2013
Albuquerque, New Mexico



Book Review

WORMS

Written by Murray Dailey

Illustrated by Denis Proulx

Publisher WingSpan

ISBN 978-1-59594-488-7

First Edition-2013

www.wingspanpress.com

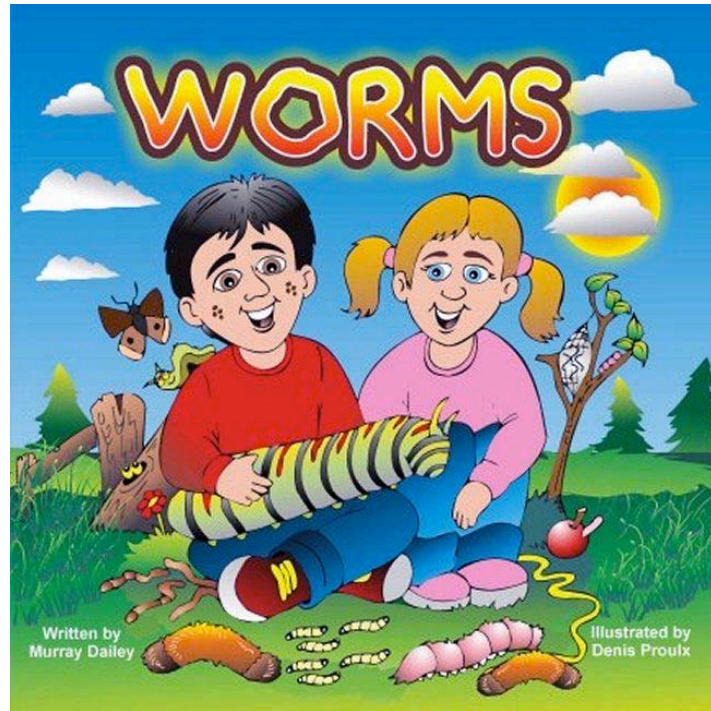
Murray Dailey's new and fun children's book aims at teaching children basic natural history and taking the "squirms" out of worms. Both the reader and the child will enjoy the illustrations and reading about the different types of "worms".

This is Murray Dailey's and Denis Proulx's second collaboration on a children's book. The first was The Adventures of Willy the Hookworm (reviewed in the ASP Newsletter, 34, No. 2, Winter 2012). Similar to their first book, "WORMS" is written and illustrated for younger children.

Murray describes both free-living worms such as caterpillars as well as parasites. Murray uses 12 limericks to describe each type of worm, 3 of which are about parasites. The following is an example:

"In Africa when your arm or leg has a blister
With something hanging out that is not very thick
It is probably a biblical Guinea Worm
That you have to wind up on a stick"

This limerick is accompanied by a great illustration of a horrified boy watching a



Worms
by
Murray Dailey
WingSpan Press



girl calmly using a stick to wind up the worm coming from his leg. This could elicit a response of either "Oh, how gross!" or "Cool" from the child. It is a great way to introduce children to topics not often seen in children's books and is well-designed for young children. The pages are sturdy and the 20 illustrations are colorful and expressive.

This wonderful children's book is dedicated to the children who died at Sandy Hook Elementary School and is available through Amazon.com.

Submitted by Mike Moser
Berkley, California

DELUSIONAL PARASITOSIS

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Introduction

Delusional parasitosis is a recognized medical condition in individuals typically imagining they are infected internally and externally with parasites such as arthropods and parasitic worms (Bak et al 2008a; Donabedian 2007; Driscoll et al 1993; Winsten 1997.) To these persons, their condition is real and they are unaware that it is mental rather than actual. They become frustrated because persons in the medical and other professional fields cannot help them by finding identifiable live "little creatures" in them.

Case Histories

Cases of three individuals (No. 1, 2, and 3) with delusional parasitosis are presented. Their ages are estimated. All three individuals, each college-educated, were convinced that they had a clinical problem associated with either internal or external parasites. They contacted a parasitologist in a university veterinary science department for advice.

Individual No. 1 was a female who sold skin care products. She was about 30 years old and had a bachelor's degree. Her real interest and college major is in



the arts and theater. She felt certain that her dog, a three-year old poodle and golden retriever cross, had unusual parasite problems. The only comment about a clinical problem with the dog was that it had an occasional cough. Her veterinarian said the dog was not passing parasite eggs in its feces but did not identify the matter allegedly defecated by the dog. Thus she decided to contact a parasitologist. In a phone call setting up an appointment, she said the dog was passing hair-type structures with a small white part at one end. Parasitological inspection was made of objects in several small containers (ones used for skin products) she brought with her. Sometimes she would stay up late at night and watch these substances coming out of the anus of her dog; she wondered why they came out at night. The "hair" was examined under a microscope and the cuticle had definite irregular transverse scales like dog hair. Incidentally she bought a microscope so she could look at and take photos of the various items. One image showed the typical root bulb of the hair. She claimed that the "hair" moved by itself. To prove this she took a video, which she brought to the lab, of the dog hair and a strand of her hair side by side on a rug. The dog hair did move some and hers, which appeared thicker, did not. Hair removed from the dog was about six inches long and very thin in diameter. One hair partially attached to a piece of tape which she brought, showed by demonstration that it was quite susceptible for movement by slight air current. She did admit that she groomed her dog a lot and that it did have long tail hair. It was obvious that the hair structures were indeed dog hair and that the small white attached part was the root bulb. Other material, supposedly passed in the feces of the dog, included several different plant components e.g. grass and cells in addition to lint and ants. The dog was only turned outside for a short time and she did not think it ate vegetation but evidently it did. This young woman became convinced that she acquired, from her dog, the same supposed medical problem which it had. She said she developed anal pruritis and went to her physician who said she might have pinworms but absolute diagnosis was not made. Apparently the physician prescribed a drug (uncertain of name) for pinworms but the rectal condition persisted. She did bring with her some substances she passed. It included a small probable piece of a plant and what appeared to be mucous. Also she had several photos taken through her microscope, of material she found in her feces and all appeared to be partially digested plant parts. She did say that occasionally she changes her diet because of trying to overcome what she believes is a medical problem. This individual also had a few small light red "spots" (one mm or so in diameter with a tiny white spot in the middle) on one arm and shoulder; there was no indication of them being scratched. She believed parasitic worms coming out of her dog infected/burrowed into her skin and had to be gotten out forcibly; so the skin lesions may have been self-inflicted. Currently she was treating herself with garlic both orally and rectally. She said the rectal method of treatment helped her condition. After the parasitological examination, she said she was glad to know that the material she brought in from her and her dog was not worms. However, it was apparent that



she still believed that the hair and other substances were affecting their health. About a month later she called and said could she bring in something “new” that her dog passed/or was on its tail so she brought them to the parasitology lab. No parasites were found; only items like small twists of lint, plant-type objects, and mucoid-type material were identified. Also she brought some material she found in her feces and scotch tape she had applied to her anal area. No parasites or eggs were found; there were some seeds (she said she was eating flax seeds), other plant-types and apparent mucous. There was no indication of skin lesions on her arm like noticed at her first visit but there was at least one on her face and it was covered with a cream-type substance. At the end of this second visit she seemed more convinced than after the first visit, that the material she brought to the lab was not or did not contain parasites. However she still was convinced that some “things” were affecting the health of both her and her dog.

Individual No.2 was a female nurse (probably an RN) about 40 years old. She was on a trip out in a nature area and had to eliminate body waste, so did so by some trees. During this episode she is convinced that parasites “jumped” on her. Since then she is sure that she has worms under her skin and internally. Also she believed there were tiny insects/something else moving below her skin. Since this individual is a nurse she was concerned about transmitting her parasites to patients. Therefore she washed her hands many times per day. Also she used hand-sanitizer to disinfect her skin. She said her physician could not find that she had parasites but a drug (name unknown) was prescribed for possible, undiagnosed, pinworm infection. This person made two visits to the parasitology laboratory. On the first one she brought her feces which was washed into a sieve and examined. Also she had brought some objects she had found in her feces. No worms or other parasites were found in any of the material. Upon each of the two trips here, her arms had visible scaly scratch lesions. From these lesions she had picked out what she believed were tiny insects and other particles. Examination revealed no parasites but only what appeared to be tissue fragments/debris. This person had horses and she asked about treating herself with a dewormer (ivermectin) used for these animals; this was discouraged. She was concerned that she might transfer her “parasites” to her husband; advice to her was this would not happen because the material she collected was not parasites. Even after parasitological consultation, this nurse was still convinced parasites were causing her medical problems.

Individual No. 3 was a female medical doctor (MD) originally from Germany but living in the USA. Her age probably was in the 60s. She was not practicing in her profession here but taught German in a college. After seeing a photo in a newspaper of a parasitologist at an annual university field day on sheep, she contacted this person about a supposed personal parasite problem. Upon arrival for her appointment, she brought 10 to 12 glass jars containing her feces which was fixed apparently in alcohol. Her concern was not the feces but what she



described was all the accompanying material which she believed was parasites. The material was many different shapes but the common feature was stringiness. Approximately two hours was expended examining the substance microscopically. Conclusion was that it was not parasites but mucous. The reason for the seemingly excessive mucous was not known. This diagnosis seemed to satisfy the woman somewhat but not completely convince her that she did not have parasites in her feces. There was an impression, evidenced by some of her conversation, that besides wanting to know about her supposed parasites, she also sought attention. This belief was supported by, after the examination, she left and came back shortly with a gift of a large chocolate egg.

REMARKS

These three varied but related case histories demonstrate the perceived belief that parasites are causing medical problems. This in spite of the fact that none of the material submitted to a parasitologist contained, or consisted of, any type of parasite such as an insect or worm. No medical diagnosis or advice was related to the individuals. Each was told only that none of the material they submitted was parasites. Individual No. 1 who believed her "infection" was from her dog is similar to that of a woman who believed the source of her problem was from her cats (Nel et al, 2001). The three individuals in the present cases fit the pattern documented many times of delusional parasitosis. (Bak et al 2008a; Donabedian 2007). Since this condition is mental rather than actual, quality of the lives of these people is greatly diminished and may continue that way. The biggest problem with the disease is for afflicted persons to be convinced that they have psychological troubles. Unless they are persuaded or realize that this is the basis for their condition, relief is quite difficult. There has been some success in treatment with antipsychotic drugs such as pimozide (Bak et al., 2008b; Driscoll et al., 1993; Winsten, M., 1997).

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Editors comments – re: Delusional parasitosis. On average, we receive one phone call per month from people in the US who contact us in the Manter Laboratory in an effort to rid themselves of what they believe are parasites. Over the past few years, we have received packages with photographs, material of various kinds in bottles and tubes, images via e-mail and web sites, and people showing up in person, all with the request that they need help with parasites that are infecting their bodies, skin, or their beds. To deal with this increasing problem, the Manter Laboratory refers people to the ASP delusional parasitosis page and to the [American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene pages](#) that allow users to search for physicians with expertise in parasitology in their areas. Please visit the ASP page and click on the Human-Parasite Medical Links page to see more. An especially good page is the one run by Lynn Kimsey at the Bohart Museum at UC Davis.



You can get to this page via the ASP links on the [Human-Parasite Medical Links](#) page.



FACEBOOK

The ASP has a Facebook page. Search for ASP and be our friend.
The Manter Lab also has a Facebook page. Search for Manter Laboratory, and like us, too.



Figure 2. and Figure 3. *Ascaris lumbricoides* from an 11 year old kid from Lincoln, NE. This boy had never been anywhere more distant than Wyoming and he passed this nice sized nematode right here in Lincoln!

INTRODUCTION TO NEMATODES

This is a summary graphic for an available module called introduction to nematodes. [It can be found on the nematology web site](http://www.nematologists.org) and was contributed by Edward C. McGawley, Nematologist & Professor, Department of Plant Pathology & Crop Physiology, 302 Life Sciences Bldg.; Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803 USA

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INTRODUCTION TO NEMATODES

IFNS
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McGawley, Overstreet, Pontif & Skantar

WHAT IS A WORM - ANYWAY?

The summary paper by Hugot and co-authors provides some definitions of what a worm actually may be. This paper in "Nematology" is a classic and covers questions about numbers of species and the biodiversity of Worms. [Get this paper here. See: Biodiversity in helminths and nematodes as a field of study: an overview. Nematology, 2001, Vol. 3: 199-208.](#)

THE LIFE OF ALAIN CHABAUD

Professor Alain Gabriel Chabaud died at his home in Chevilly la Rue, near Paris, on March 11, 2013. He was born on March 13, 1923 and therefore dies on the eve of his 90th birthday. His death comes few months after the disappearance of Odile Bain, and with them two, an important part of the former Chair of Worms Zoology from the Paris Museum capsized in Past. In 1739, when the Natural History Museum appeared, twelve chairs were created which titles and themes had evolved over the years. The chair, which Alain Chabaud became the director in 1960, has a particular history: created for him, he has been the first and the last holder. On his retirement in 1998, no successor will be tenured. In the following years the Statute of the Museum will be deeply transformed and the chairs subdivision abandoned.

Professor Chabaud himself was a particular person. Indifferent to honors, easily approachable at all times and wearing modest behavior, he personified the exact opposite of those we designate as the "mandarins". Despite a successful scientific career that earned him worldwide fame, he will have not solicited, accepted or received any prestigious award, with the exception of the silver medal of the French Society of Parasitology*. The ceremony during which this distinction was remitted (Paris, August 28, 2008) was an opportunity for him to make a speech full of fun and self-deprecating. He took great care to emphasize that having received no peculiar gift (except an ability in gymnastics, attested by school certificates) he was indebted for its



Figure 3. Alain Chabaud near his home in Chevilly la Rue near Paris in December, 1986. The occasion was a dinner party to which Chabaud invited slg when a grad student in New Mexico.



success to luck, which had favored him, and at the period, which had been propitious. He also defended his choice to surround himself mainly with female collaborators: *"smarter, more careful, less careerists, and less well paid."*

He was quoting those who had been his mentors: Émile Brumpt, Georges Blanc, Camille Desportes and Robert Dollfus. The first three were physicians as he was himself, and they had welcomed and trained him to the Chair of Parasitology of the Faculty of Medicine of Paris and in the Parasitology Laboratory of the Cordeliers. Robert Dollfus was a zoologist and taxonomist. His training in biology was largely self-taught and, despite his early reputation gained in the field of parasite zoology, the Museum never granted him the title of Professor. It was not until 1946, when he was near 60 years old that he should accede to the functions of CNRS Research Director. When Chabaud took up his duties at the Museum, Dollfus joined the rue Cuvier, where had been established the new Laboratory of Worms Zoology. Dollfus, whom Chabaud affectionately called as *"My good master"* was installed in the basement in what Chabaud described as: *"a sort of cellar, a narrow monastic cell. So dark that electric lights were lit throughout the day and during much of the night. R.Ph. Dollfus was there perfectly comfortable surrounded by his microscopes, bookshelves, lots of reprints in all existing languages, animals swimming in formalin and boxes of slides ..."* This is a place I knew well, because when I joined the lab in 1978, Chabaud installed me there. What he considered undoubtedly an honor. In any case, I can confirm that the vault was what he described.

According to Alain Chabaud, his *"masters"*, whatever their differences shared: *"The love of nature and the need to solve the problems they discovered."* Need and love which he shared and certainly was able to transmit to most of his collaborators and students. When he thought he recognized these qualities in a newcomer, or a foreign colleague he had a formula: *"This is a true naturalist!"* and that was all. All of his teachers certainly were naturalists. All began their careers with a kind of initiatory journey, such as those that, since Darwin, appear to trigger among certain: *"a monomania, sometimes painful for the relatives ... (but) being the most exquisite of drugs."*

Robert Dollfus had participated in the first trip of the *Pourquoi pas?* the famous ship of the no less famous Commander Charcot. Émile Brumpt, having just earned his medical degree (at the same time he supported a PhD degree in natural sciences) participated as a naturalist and a physician to the mission of du Bourg de Bozas (1901-1903). The mission's objective was to cross equatorial Africa from the Red Sea to the Atlantic. During the journey they must, among other things, attempt to discover the vector of sleeping sickness. They did not succeed and du Bourg de Bozas died, probably from a pernicious malarial access. Despite these dramatic circumstances Brumpt methodically will collect and will bring in France abundant specimens. As a good parasitologist he simply incised, not eviscerated, the numerous mammals preserved in alcohol. In 1982, I was able to necropsy an Abyssinian gundi (*Pectinator spekei*) collected by him, to discover and describe a new pinworm species. These trips and the interest of the researchers for parasites and pathogens were not without danger. Du Bourg de Bozas will never come back. Brumpt will contract in his laboratory the Rocky Mountain spotted fever, which handicapped him during the last twenty years of his life, finally immobilizing him completely. Camille Desportes died after a trip to Africa during which he had voluntarily got infected by malaria in order to bring back the strain in France, and try to maintain in the laboratory. Alain Chabaud used to say that without this premature death, Desportes would have been chosen as director of the Worms Zoology laboratory.

Like his masters Alain Chabaud was a field man. For him, as for them, the work was beginning with the ordered collection of study materials in natural environments. It was a methodological necessity as well as a great happiness. For a few weeks away from any concern, they could indulge their investigatory passion without restraint, completing collections according to a work plan meticulously prepared and sometimes be overwhelmed with happiness, when learning something new and that they were not come to seek. All this of course discussing all day long with colleagues inhabited by the same passion. I met Alain Chabaud in the biological station of Makokou (Gabon), created by Professor Grassé. He had come for a field collection together with Irene Landau and Odile Bain. I was responsible for overseeing the livestock of gorillas and chimpanzees. All three were installed in a guest laboratory where, day and night, for the duration of their stay, they carefully dismantled all the animals, which other researchers, workers of the station, or fishermen passing along the river, were able to provide. In case of failure, they knew how to get some millipedes, lizards or cockroaches during they were waiting for the next delivery.



One of their rare outings was to visit the Church of the Catholic Mission. Not to gather in the scents of incense, but because the priest was complaining about a band of microbats, installed vertically in line with the altar and, of course, spoiling the sacred embroideries and laces with their abundant shits. The priest asked me as a service to come and shoot a volley of small shot to disperse the sacrilege band. When informed Chabaud and Irene jumped: *"We may sample a whole family group?"* Provided with an ecclesiastical shooting permit we came to exterminate the small animals. The researchers rushed to dip their blades in fresh blood while the priest, however he was quite an old man, sketched his jigging in the nave. The truth compels me to say that: an ecological niche never staying empty for long, one week later a new bat family was installed. They belonged to the same species; this is why we refused to renew the cleaning.

Another outing led us to a cave, known to be carpeted with bats of different species. At the entrance a nasty surprise was waiting for us: from inside the cave was coming a torrential stream that drained much of the guano accumulated on the ground. As I hesitated, Irene removed her pants without ceremony and said: *"Anyway, I'm going!"* I had to follow with my upper thighs submerged in the stinking arroyo. In the middle of the cave was a vertical chimney: *"There we must go, the animals I am looking for (Hipposideros gigas - ndr) live in the top."* So I climbed up and handpicked some of the soughtafter animals: *"You cannot go wrong, they are the largest ones"* (also those with the longest canines - ndr). I went down with my belt surrounded with bags, in the manner of a captive balloon encircled by sandy sacks. Inside the bags the struggling microbats were becoming hateful. Suddenly, my thigh was violently bitten through the bag. I missed a grip, then a second and after skidding several meters, I ended up joining, rather abruptly, Irene into the cloaca (sewer). This time, sitting at the bottom of the stream, we were not submerged until upper thighs, but until the chest, *"Have you caught some, at least?"* Such events create relationships and are welding a team.

Fortune made, i.e. their luggage invaded with tubes of different sizes carefully labeled, the parasitologists have started to prepare their return. It was then that the CNRS delivered me a microscope, however I did not ask any and was considering having no need (chimpanzees and gorillas are animals relatively easy to observe with the naked eye). Chabaud came with me to the laboratory, examined the device, a beautiful Leitz, and gave me some tips for use. I used the aside to ask him what could be so exciting in spending hours carefully collecting with a brush any animalcule crawling or wriggling on bloody and stinking intestinal garlands. He first stated that the complete inventory of the various groups studied in the laboratory being essential, he endeavored bringing *"presents"* to each member of his team, and even some foreign colleagues. I was expecting this response. Since several months I was living with monomaniacal cranks: some addicts to dragonfly, butterfly or frogs, others climbing trees at night to spy monstrous hypsignathes, others imitating the orange-tip-of-tail guenon warning its female that a monkey-eating eagle is approaching. Consequently I knew very well how a naturalistic researcher behaves in the field.

Noting that his answer was not lighting my passion, Chabaud added: *"Parasites also give us information about the organism that host them. Knowing their morphology allows understanding evolution and this evolution is necessarily linked to the hosts. Sometimes so closely, that one mirror the other ..."* This time the contagion was declared. In an instant a field of research was revealed. A field beautifully described by Ernest Renan in his *"Letter to Mr. Berthelot"* published in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, October 15, 1863:

"I always thought that the secret of the formation of species is in their morphology, that animal forms are a hieroglyphic language which we do not have the key; that explaining the past is entirely in facts we have before us, without knowing how to read. One day, zoology will be historical, instead of simply describe the existing fauna, it will seek to discover how the animals came to the state in which we see them. Perhaps Darwin's assumptions about this will one day deemed insufficient or incorrect, but without a doubt, they are in the path of the great explanation of the world and the true philosophy. "

Without this conversation, I do not think I would ever have the vocation to dedicate my professional life to Parasitic Zoology. And discover in my turn: *"the wonders offered by the natural sciences (because) no reasonable person can resist the amazement that comes with the microscope view of the head of a louse or a female pinworm vagina."* I would add: especially if you're sure of being the first to discover them. This emphasis on taxonomy and systematics is present in the concepts and the works of all these

researchers who, following the roads open to epidemiology by the discoveries of Louis Pasteur have created medical Parasitology. Pasteur institutes overseas have played a fundamental role in the success of this research. When browsing the curriculum vitae of the precursors in these disciplines it is found that all of them, along with their medical studies, have completed courses in general biology and/or zoology. Émile Brumpt, while pursuing his medical studies, was Raphael Blanchard preparer at the *Laboratory of Natural History in the Faculty of Medicine of Paris...*

Another characteristic of this period is to have been widely open internationally. Alain Chabaud and those who worked with him have extended and developed relationships with their colleagues from other continents. The laboratory of Worms Zoology was during the forty years of its existence a center of transfer of skills and know-how for young or experienced scientists coming from all countries in the World. The friendly collaborations that resulted greatly contributed to the exchange and dissemination of methods and knowledge.

Does this active community have a future in the changing world where we are living now? We must hope so, but it is clear that current trends rather depreciate research based on *in situ* observations. Traditional taxonomy, based on the description and conservation of types, is itself widely regarded as old-fashioned and outdated. But the main obstacle to their perpetuation is the time a young researcher may devote to them. In most "*developed*" countries is observed a frenzy of results accumulation where the amount is often substituted to quality. Talking about oneself is becoming more important than having something to say. However, naturalists have a peculiarity: if their "*immediate impact factor*" is sometimes weak, the life of their writings is extensive. Since men know how to keep track, they have the ability to meet beyond the barriers of time, space and language. In one month, in ten years, here or elsewhere, a student passionate about natural history will discover the writings of one of his predecessors, and instantly will feel to have renewed with a very old friend, closer to him than many of his contemporaries. This is how the naturalists, discreetly, happen to be immortal.

Alain Chabaud leaves behind a considerable body of publications, probably several hundred, but he never had much care about counting or organizing them. His contributions to encyclopedias: the *Traité de zoologie, anatomie, systématique, biologie* by Pierre Paul Grasse, or the *CIH Keys*, in collaboration with Roy Anderson and Shelma Willmot, still are essential documents to the world of parasitologists. As the hundreds (thousands perhaps) publications of his collaborators, students, colleagues and friends. Besides his scientific production will remain from him the memory of a friendly man who played a prominent role in the circulation of ideas and people in most of the major areas of Parasitology.

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- To be completely accurate, it should be noted that: Jean Dorst, director of the Museum having decided authoritatively that all Chair holders should receive the Légion d'Honneur, Alain Chabaud had to accept this decoration without having requested anything and against his will.

** Italics and quotation marks are quotes from the speech of Professor Alain Chabaud, silver medal of the French Society of Parasitology at the closing ceremony of EMOP-10, Paris, 28 August 2008. *Parasite*, 2008, 15: 552.

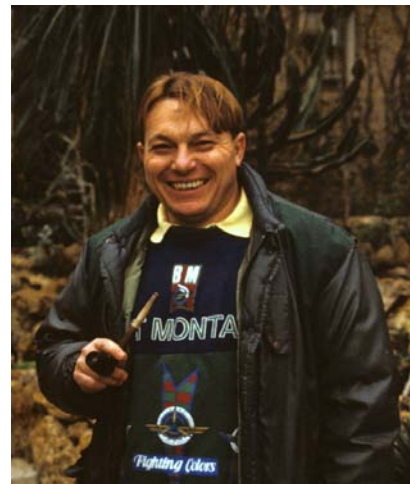


Figure 4. JP Hugot at ease in the botanical garden at the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris. 1986.



ASP MEETING INFORMATION

The 88th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Parasitologists and the 13th Annual Québec Molecular Parasitology Meeting, Loews Le Concorde Hôtel, Québec City, Canada, June 26-29, 2013.



Figure 5 - View of the city.

Welcome!

We would like to welcome you to the 88th annual meeting of the American Society of Parasitologists (ASP).

The ASP is a diverse group of over 1500 scientists from industry, government, and academia who are interested in the study and teaching of parasitology. Founded in 1924, ASP members have contributed not only to the development of parasitology as a discipline, but also to primary research in systematics, medicine, molecular biology, immunology, physiology, ecology, biochemistry, behavior, biodiversity, and more.

Herman Eure and Kelli Sapp, Scientific Program Officers

[See the ASP web site for more information.](#)

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY

A continuing feature of the ASP Newsletter. Keep sending in your contributions.



Figure 6. The type locality of a new genus of rodent collected during the Bolivian Mammal Parasite Biodiversity Survey. The new genus name is *Tapecomys*, named after the locality "Tapecua, Tarija, Bolivia" – rodents of the genus *Ctenomys* also live in the forested parts of this mountain pass.



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Note to Members -

The ASP Newsletter welcomes news stories, articles, poetry. Please send your text electronically to the editor as an e-mail and attach as an MS Word document. Drawings, photographs, charts, or tables can be sent as color or b/w TIF files at 600 dpi. Please send TIF files one at a time. A general rule is to limit photograph size to 3"x5". You may attach both text and graphic files to your email message.

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