

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Papers in the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Department
of

January 1906

Report of the Tenth Geological Expedition of Hon. Charles H. Morrill, Season of 1905

Erwin Hinckley Barbour
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/geosciencefacpub>



Part of the [Earth Sciences Commons](#)

Barbour, Erwin Hinckley, "Report of the Tenth Geological Expedition of Hon. Charles H. Morrill, Season of 1905" (1906). *Papers in the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences*. 53.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/geosciencefacpub/53>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Department of at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Papers in the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

spent in the Oranges would be obviously wasted.

As applied to the usual inland species the argument made is fully borne out by my field experience. As to the salt marsh breeders it is utterly inapplicable—witness the fact that the work done on the Newark meadows resulted in a marked decrease in the mosquito troubles at Paterson many miles to the north.

JOHN B. SMITH.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.,

December 15, 1905.

YELLOW FEVER AND THE PANAMA CANAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The continuous discussion of Panama Canal affairs suggests to me to call attention to the possibility that the cutting of the canal may lead to trouble from yellow fever in two of our Pacific island colonies. In the summer of 1902, spent in the Hawaiian and Samoan islands as agent of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, my attention was forcibly called to the unusual proportions of the mosquito plague in both these island groups. If it were not for the dragonflies which wage effective war against the 'day mosquitoes,' and for the bed canopies of netting which protect the sleeper from 'night mosquitoes,' life would hardly be tolerable in Honolulu. In Tutuila (our principal Samoan island) mosquitoes are the most obvious features of the above-water fauna aside from the brown natives themselves. Now both in Hawaii and Samoa one of the most abundant of the infesting mosquito species is *Stegomyia fasciata*, which is none other than the yellow-fever mosquito, that is, the particular mosquito species which harbors and disseminates, in yellow fever regions, the plasmodium or bacterium which is the immediate cause of the disease.

So far no cases of yellow fever have occurred in Hawaii or Samoa, but this is obviously not because of the absence of the yellow fever host, but, presumably, of the yellow fever specific causal agent, the pathogenic 'germ.' It is to be presumed that ships have not yet carried yellow-fever-germ-infested specimens of *Stegomyia* from the West Indies to Hawaii or Samoa. Going round the Horn

is probably an effective check to the spread of yellow fever from the West Indies to our Pacific Islands by reason both of the time required and the low temperatures met. Besides there is little traffic now between the two regions. But with the cutting of the canal, making possible a direct short-time passage of ships from the Gulf of Mexico to Hawaii, or to Samoa, all of the voyage being within tropical or subtropical latitudes—the Hawaiian islands are in 20° north latitude, the Samoan islands in 14° south latitude—will there not be a real danger of planting the dread agent of yellow fever in our Pacific colonies in which already the necessary insect host exists in enormous numbers? There may be obvious reasons why this migration can not take place, but they are not apparent to me now. It is, at least, a contingency to be had in mind by those charged with the responsibility of public health affairs in Hawaii and Samoa.

VERNON L. KELLOGG.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIF.

REPORT OF THE TENTH GEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION OF HON. CHARLES H. MORRILL, SEASON OF 1905.

THE season of 1905 marked a renewal of paleontological activity in the University of Nebraska, since it so happened that for the first time in several years funds became available again for the prosecution of such work.

By virtue of the liberal support and patronage of Hon. Charles H. Morrill, of Lincoln, annual geological expeditions, essentially paleontological in character, had been maintained in connection with the state university since 1892. In 1901, though his interest in the work as well as his good will continued, his patronage ceased. This was wholly due to the overcrowded condition of the state museum, coupled with unusual fire risks, which plainly endangered public and private collections. In the meantime the work of making general collections has been pushed by the state survey, but the special work conducted by the annual Morrill geological expeditions was necessarily of a desultory order, the expenses being met by the sale of duplicate specimens.

Pursuant to recommendations by Chancellor Andrews and the board of regents, the state legislature early in 1905 voted the sum of fifty thousand dollars for the erection of a portion of the first wing of a fireproof museum. With the assurance of safe and ample room and increased facilities Mr. Morrill again offered substantial support to the amount of one thousand dollars annually for paleontological research and exploration.

This is an important sum, especially to a young institution and to those living near the fossil fields where student labor is to be depended upon, and where through friendly interest in scientific investigation the railroads of the commonwealth stand ready to extend to the university free transportation and other courtesies.

Early in the summer a small party of students was organized, and, in response to invitations from Mr. James Cook, of Agate, Nebr., camped and collected on his extensive ranch, which includes some twelve miles of Loup Fork exposures along the Niobrara River. The season was spent at one spot where, in a thin layer, the bones occurred in such numbers that they were literally quarried. As heretofore the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad offered free transportation for men and material.

Personnel of the tenth expedition: L. J. Pepperberg, H. J. Cook, M. L. Lee, J. H. Miller, W. D. Steckelberg and the writer, who was in charge.

Field work in Nebraska is not necessarily confined to summer, for fall is a protracted and open season, and many excursions are yet to be made before the year ends. Collections of the economic resources of the state at large are being made by Dr. George E. Condra. Special collections of the economic resources and fossils of Sarpy County are being made by Mr. L. J. Pepperberg, and the work of collecting is now being extended to eastern and southern fields by Mr. Charles N. Gould, professor of geology in the University of Oklahoma, while pursuing courses of study leading to his doctorate.

Plans for a new state museum are drawn and approved, and it is promised that the first

portion of a fire-proof wing will be ready for occupancy within a year.

This, coupled with the fact that funds are available from several sources, brightens the outlook for geological and paleontological work in the University of Nebraska, where for the past year more than one ton a week of the best state collections have been boxed and lowered in an abandoned steam tunnel under the campus.

An account of the Morrill Geological Expeditions 1892 to 1900 by Miss Carrie Adeline Barbour may be found in *SCIENCE*, Vol. XI., No. 283, pages 856-858, entitled 'Report on the Work of the Morrill Geological Expeditions of the University of Nebraska.' An account of these expeditions may also be found in Vol. I., pages 18-24, of the Nebraska Geological Survey, under the title 'History of the Morrill Geological Expeditions.'

ERWIN HINCKLEY BARBOUR.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA,

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA,

November 1, 1905.

REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ELIZABETH THOMPSON SCIENCE FUND OF PROFESSOR BOVERI'S RESEARCHES.

THE following report has been received from Professor Boveri and is now published by order of the trustees:

I herewith permit myself to make report concerning the investigations which I have carried out with the support of the Elizabeth Thompson Science Fund. I spent seven weeks at the Zoological Station in Naples, where I occupied myself, in connection with earlier experiments, on the development of dispermic sea urchin eggs with the following questions:

1. It is of fundamental importance for the whole problem of dispermy to determine whether dispermic germs develop pathologically because they have taken in two spermatozoa or because they were already pathological. I have, therefore, tested this question experimentally. One of the experiments succeeded in every respect so perfectly that the assertion can now be made with complete certainty that the same egg which, if impregnated by a single spermatozoon would have