



GOOD NEWS ON INDEXING BULLETIN ARTICLES

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**GOOD NEWS ON
INDEXING BULLETIN ARTICLES**

"I know that you will be pleased to learn that the National Library of Medicine's Ad Hoc Panel on the Selection of Journals for *Index Medicus* recommended that the *Bulletin of the Wildlife Disease Association* be indexed selectively when our resources permit its addition to our *List of Journals Indexed*. . . . hopefully within the next year.

LEONARD KAREL, PH.D.,
Chief, Bibliographic Services
National Library of Medicine,
Bethesda, 7 February, 1966

**"TUBERCULOSIS VS. ACID-FAST INFECTION
IN WILDLIFE:****A PLEA FOR PRECISION"**

"The report of 'tuberculosis' in a ruffed grouse by Snoeyenbos (Bull. WDA 2:9, 1966) suggested infection due to *Mycobacterium avium*, possibly as a result of contact with domestic fowl. A similar article by Ferris, et al. (JAVMA 138: 326-328, 1961) emphasized the possibility that "tuberculosis" found in deer under confinement could have been acquired from human or other mammalian contacts. Unfortunately, in both the above studies, the acid-fast organisms observed were not isolated and identified.

A case report of acid-fast infection in a wild animal is certainly of interest in itself. However, acceptance of the epizootologic implications presented in the above articles, without specific identification of the organisms involved

can hardly be of benefit to future investigations in this area

There are numerous species of *Mycobacterium* that are pathogenic for man and other animals. For years, the attention of public health and agricultural investigators was focused on *Myco. tuberculosis*, *Myco. bovis* and, to a lesser extent, *Myco. avium*. Until recently, members of the unclassified acid-fast group were considered as contaminants or saprophytes. Many of these species are now recognized pathogens of considerable importance for man as well as domestic animals.

The ecologic picture for the *Mycobacteria* is not yet complete. It is especially important that all those investigating wildlife diseases increase its clarity rather than add to the confusion. Please, let us isolate and identify the acid-fasts (cf. Koch's postulates)."

W. T. HUBBERT, D.V.M.

Communicable Disease Center,
San Francisco, 24 Feb., 1966

MORE COMMENTS ON THE BULLETIN

"I disagree with Dr. Kartman (letter to the editor, *Bull. Wildlife Dis. Assoc.* 2:1-2, 1966) advocating the publishing of abstracts only rather than full articles. In general, original observations should be reported with all evidence necessary to support the author's interpretation and conclusions. If not worth this, they are not worth publishing. As far as illustrations are concerned, each requires a minimum size to clearly depict its signi-

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