110 serums were reported negative to the FPM test and positive to at least two of the other tests (table 2). In a screening procedure with the FPM test these seropositive persons probably would have been missed. Despite its advantages in collecting, the lower sensitivity of the FPM test makes it of questionable value in obtaining reliable evaluation tests on children. These observations on reactivity are consistent with the previously reported findings of Harris and Olansky (*2*).

Summary

1. Results of field use of the FPM test in a demonstration screening of 902 individuals in an Ohio county and in obtaining 187 specimens from children during routine public health nursing visits to homes are reported. The filter paper method of blood collection has definite advantages, as it is suited to mass as well as home use, and professional personnel can be quickly trained to get satisfactory specimens.

2. Comparative studies of the FPM and standard tests in routine use in Ohio performed on 897 patients at the Central Ohio Rapid Treatment Center are reported. The lower reactivity of the FPM test by comparison with the other tests negates the definite advantages of ease of specimen collection, and limits the use of the test to instances in which no other method of obtaining a specimen is possible. False security which might result from a negative report by the FPM test renders the advisability of the test's limited use doubtful.

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Tularemia From a Wood Rat in New Mexico

By DEAN H. ECKE, M.S., and ROBERT HOLDENRIED, Ph.D.

Tissue from a wood rat (*Neotoma albigula*) found dead at Gran Quivira National Monument, N. Mex., April 12, 1951, was shown in the laboratory to be infected with *Pasteurella tularensis* (McCoy and Chapin). This is the first time that *N. albigula* has been found naturally infected with tularemia. Tularemia in a Pacific Coast species (*Neotoma fuscipes*), however, has been previously reported (*1*).

The superintendent of the Gran Quivira National Monument had observed dead cottontails (*Sylvilagus auduboni*) in the area during the previous 8 months. At his request a survey was conducted to determine the cause of the epizootic. Field-collected material was obtained by the plague survey crew of the New Mexico Department of Public Health. The crew cooperated with the Public Health Service's Western Communicable Disease Laboratory, San Francisco, Calif., which conducted the laboratory tests. The findings of this survey are recorded in the table.

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Results of survey of mammals at Gran Quivira National Monument, April 10–13, 1951

Mammal species	Number mammals	Ticks			Fleas			Number with positive tissue [2]
		Number	Average number per animal [1]	Number positive pools [2]	Number	Average number per animal [1]	Number positive pools [2]	
Sylvilagus audubonii	17	101	6	2	100	6	0	2
Neotoma albigula	42	0	0	0	130	3	0	1
Peromyscus truei	19	0	0	0	29	2	0	0
Peromyscus maniculatus	20	0	0	0	11	1	0	0
Dipodomys ordii	27	5	1	0	2	0	0	0
Dipodomys spectabilis	5	0	0	0	7	1	0	0
Reithrodontomys megalotis	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Citellus variegatus	1	0	0	0	6	6	0	0
Total	132	106		2	286		0	3

[1] Averages rounded out to nearest whole number.
[2] Positive for *P. tularensis*.

Ticks were numerous on cottontails in the area but were found, in small numbers, on only one species of rodent (*Dipodomys ordii*). Two pools of ticks from cottontails contained tularemia organisms. Fleas were found on all of the mammals captured. None of the flea pools were found to be infected even though taken from cottontails shown to have infected tissue or to be carrying infected ticks.

These observations suggest that the epizootic was primarily limited to the cottontail population, with the wood rat involved secondarily. In this area of New Mexico, wood rats and cottontails are frequently found in close association, often sharing the same living quarters. As a result, it is likely that the opportunity occasionally arises for a limited exchange of ectoparasites, and that the wood rat became infected with tularemia from ticks which had previously fed on an infected rabbit. The long period over which dead cottontails were observed and the large number of live animals remaining at the time of the survey indicate that the epizootic was not of a fulminating, rapidly spreading nature.

It is concluded that tularemia in the wood rat was a chance infection and that wood rats in this locality are not important in the ecology of tularemia.

REFERENCE

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