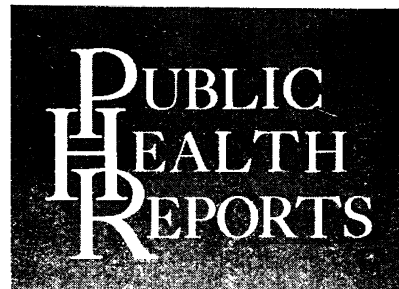


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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

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ECHOES from Public Health Reports

TYPHUS FEVER

THE EXPERIMENTAL TRANSMISSION OF ENDEMIC TYPHUS FEVER OF THE UNITED STATES BY THE RAT FLEA *XENOPSYLLA CHEOPIS*

By R. E. DYER, *Surgeon*, E. T. CEDER, *Assistant Surgeon*, R. D. LILLIE, A. RUMREICH, and L. F. BADGER, *Passed Assistant Surgeons, United States Public Health Service*

The incidence of endemic typhus fever in the United States, especially in the cities and towns of the southeastern States, has been brought to general attention in the past few years largely by the work of Maxcy (1). Whether endemic typhus of the United States is of European origin or represents an importation of Mexican tabardillo, or whether it is indigenous to the United States, is a matter of conjecture. Endemic typhus shows certain differences from the European, or epidemic, typhus, especially differences of an epidemiological nature. Epidemic typhus has its greatest prevalence in winter; it is associated with crowding; it is most prevalent in the lower strata of society; multiple cases in households, jails, and hospitals are common; and it has been shown repeatedly to be associated with lousiness.

In dis-

cheopis) has been

led out in the laboratory.

The foregoing evidence points to the rat flea (*X. cheopis*) as a common vector of endemic typhus from rat to rat and from rat to man.

REFERENCES

- (1) Maxcy, K. F.: Pub. Health Rep., 41:2967 (Dec. 24), 1926.
- (2) Rumreich, A., Dyer, R. E., and Badger, L. F.: Pub. Health Rep., 46:470 (Feb. 27, 1931).

OCTOBER 16, 1931, pp. 2481-2499

In this paper and an earlier one (February 13, 1931, pp. 334-338), Dr. R. E. Dyer reported that the agent for endemic typhus is the common rat flea, *Xenopsylla cheopis*.