Rabies in South Africa. Occurrence and Distribution of Cases during 1933.

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In comparing the number of positive cases of rabies diagnosed in 1933 with those for the previous year Neitz and Thomas (1932), it will be found that there is a remarkable increase in the incidence of the disease not only in small wild carnivora (Viverridae) but also in human beings and domestic animals. The material sent in for laboratory examination is more than double that submitted in 1932. Out of the 48 specimens submitted for laboratory examination from various parts of the Union, 26 proved to be positive for rabies. In our previous report (1932) we were inclined to ascribe this rapid increase in the incidence of rabies more to realisation by the public of the potential danger of viverrids as carriers of rabies and hence more material being sent in for laboratory examination than to a definite spread of the disease. From the observations made during 1933, however, there is little doubt that rabies has spread to an extent that cannot be regarded as other than serious.

It is true that the country has been experiencing more than usually dry seasons lately which culminated this year in one of the worst droughts known. We have little or no knowledge of the habits, food supplies, and other factors affecting the life of our smaller wild carnivora, but it would certainly be very strange if they did not react in some way or other to such unprecedented adverse conditions. It is thus more than probable that migration in search for food must have taken place to a greater or lesser extent and so account for the greater spread of the disease.

It will be interesting in this respect to note the effects of the general and soaking rains which fell after November, 1933. It has been reported that numbers of meercats were drowned in their burrows as a result of the rains. Starvation, disease, possibly cannibalism may have accounted for a considerable additional number. With the return of normal food supplies more stable conditions may again prevail. If the drought has had anything to do with this increased incidence of rabies during the last two years it is probably safe to predict a corresponding decrease in rabies with the return to normal climatic conditions. This should in no way affect the very urgent need for research into the life-history and means of controlling the Viverridae in those areas known to be infected.

DISCUSSION OF THE CASES.

For the sake of convenience the relevant data are tabulated as in our previous report. In Table I will be found all available details of each positive case. Table II gives a summary of the distribution of the disease in the provinces and the species of animal affected. In Table III are given the details of cases examined with negative results.

It will be seen from Table I that whenever suitable material for histo-pathological examination was received Negri bodies were demonstrated with the exception of three cases, namely, 18, 25 and 26. It will be noted, however, that all three these animals were destroyed. The fact that the disease was not allowed to run its course may explain the difficulty or impossibility of finding Negri bodies. This illustrates once again the necessity of controlling by biological inoculation all suspected cases giving negative findings histologically.

The disease in human beings was transmitted once by a dog, twice by the domestic cat, twice by the yellow mungoose, and once by a wild cat (species not determined). The incubation period varied from 3 weeks to 3 months. The mode of transmission to the domestic animals in most cases was not determined, but it can be assumed that one or other member of the family Viverridae was responsible.

The incubation period in rabbits used for the biological test varied from 8 to 21 days, usually with an average of 14 days. Cases 1 and 3 show rare exceptions in which the incubation period was 65 and 76 days respectively. Rabbit R. 1013 in Case 1 and Rabbit R. 1415 in Case 25 did not develop rabies in spite of the fact that their mates injected with the same material succumbed to the disease. Two rabbits R. 1362 (Case 23) and R. 1416 (Case 26), showed typical symptoms of the dumb form of rabies, but histologically no Negri bodies were demonstrated.

Case No. 18 is of special interest. The Government Veterinary Officer, Rustenburg, who sent this material from a calf examined by him investigated this outbreak on the farm Leliefontein approximately 60 miles from Rustenburg in the Ventersdorp district. He reports that this farmer had lost 9 calves and three cows over a period of 6 months. These animals were stated to have shown a peculiar gait, in some cases became aggressive, bellowing, frothing from the mouth and exhibiting increased sexual excitability. Later paralysis, coma and then death followed. The symptoms described by the owner of these animals are so typical that there is little doubt that they all contracted rabies and died from it in that period. It appears further that several colonies of meercats were established in close proximity to the kraal in which the cattle in question were kept.

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS.

The reason for including Table III in the present report is to show as far as possible what other conditions have been encountered and have to be considered in differential diagnosis. Acute forms of

G . X . 1		Loca	LITY.				
Case Number. Month	Province.	District.	Town or farm.	Specimen No.	File No.	Material from.	Animal concerned in transmission.
ase 1 February, 1933	O.F.S	Boshof	Dealesville (Townlands)	13846 G. 13847 F.	141/1393	Cynictis penicillata	- ,
ase 2 February, 1933	O.F.S	Boshof	Dealesville	14233 G. 14234 F.	141/19	Cynictis penicillata	
ase 2 March, 1933	O.F.S	Edenburg	Edenburg (Townlands)	15318 MS. 15319 G.	141/1146	Cynictis penicillata	_
ase 4 March, 1933	O.F.S	Trompsburg	Trompsburg (Townlands)	15417 F. 15418 G.	141/310	Cynictis penicillata	_
ase 5 April, 1933	O.F.S	Bloemfontein	Bloemfontein (Townlands).	6 G. 7 F.	141/19	Cynictis penicillata	-
ase 6 April,1933	O.F.S	Senekal	Maria	_	258/283	Native male, 8 years	Cynictis penicillata
ase 7 May, 1933	O.F.S	Bloemfontein	Glen School of Agriculture.	2644 G. 2653 F.	141/18	Cynictis penicillata	-
ase 8 June, 1933	O.F.S	Trompsburg	Hamelfontein (Farm)	3437 F. 3438 G.	141/310	Dog	_
ase 9 June, 1933	0.F.S	Trompsburg	Hamelfontein (Farm)	_	141/310	Native male, 7 years	Dog
ase 10 June, 1933	O.F.S	Fauresmith	Abrahamskraal (Farm)		258/283	Native male	Wild cat, species not mentioned
ase 11 June, 1933	Tvl	Lichtenburg	Damaskus, near Delarcy-ville	3626 G.	128/179	Cynictis penicillata	
ase 12 June, 1933	Tvl	Ventersdorp	Kafferskraal (Farm)	4038 G. 4039 F.	133/44	Cynictis penicillata	
ase 13 June, 1933	Tvl	Brakpan	Van Dyk Compound	_	_	European male	Cynictis penicillata
ase 14 July, 1933	C.P	Mafeking	Knowle Park (Farm)	4336 F.	126/2	Genetta felina	
ase 15 July, 1933	O.F.S	Senekal	Heliophila (Farm)	·	-	Native male (aged 12 years)	Cat (domestic)
ase 16 July, 1933	O.F.S	Hoopstad	Wesselsbron (Townlands)	4115 G. 4116 F.	141/2474	Cynictis penicillata	_
ase 17 July, 1933	O.F.S	Senekal	Resida (Farm)	4679 G. 4680 F.	141/303	Cynictis penicillata	_
ase 18 August, 1933	Tvl	Ventersdorp	Leliefontein (Farm)	5098 F. 5099 G.	135/5	Calf	?
ase 19 August, 1933	Tvl	Schweizer Renecke	Jalala (Farm)	5458 F. 5459 G.	134/103	Cynictis penicillata	_
ase 20 August, 1933	C.P	Vryburg	Crondale (Farm)	5460 G. 5461 F	144/82	Domestic cat	?
ase 21	C.P	Vryburg	Crondale (Farm)	5464 G.	144/82	Domestic cat	?
August, 1933	0.F.S	Trompsburg	Tromspburg (Townlands)	5465 F. 5738 F. 5739 G.	141/310	Cynictis penicillata	
August, 1933 ase 23	0.F.S	Edenburg	Edenburg (Townlands)	5862 G.	141/1146	Cynictis penicillata	
Sept., 1933 ase 24 October, 1933	O.F.S	Hoopstad	Jeanette (Farm)	5863 F.		European female	Domestic cat
ase 25 Nov., 1933	O.F.S	Kroonstad	Graspan (Farm)	7842 (A) F. 7843 (A) G.	141/19	Sheep.	?
ase 26 Nov., 1933	0.F.S	Kroonstad	Graspan (Farm)	7842 (B) F. 7843 (B) G.	141/19	Sheep	T.

Histo-Patho. Examination				Biological	TESTS.			
of original material.	Expt. No.	Lab. animal	Inoculated from.	Method.	Incub. period in days.	Duration of disease in days.	Histo-Path.	Remarks.
Too decomposed	S 4694	R 1008 R 1004 R 1018	10010 0.	Subdural	65	2	Positive	Died sequel to operation. Did not show symptoms. Killed 4 months lat
Positive	S 4968	R 1014 R 1015		Subdural	13 13	5 2	Positive Positive	
Positive	S 4986	R 1028 R 1029	15319 G.	Subdural ,,	16 76	7 3	Positive	_
Positive	S 4990	R 1030 R 1031		Subdural ","	15 15	4 6	$\begin{array}{c c} Pc & \vdots \\ P' & e \dots \end{array}$	
Positive	S 5000	R 1040 R 1041	6 G.	Subdural	20 17	4 4	Positive	
	,-							Three months after being bitten on the fing symptoms developed. Laboratory examinate by the South African Institute of Medi Research, Johannesburg, confirmed diagno of rables.
Positive	S 5031	R 1083 R 1084	2644 G.	Subdural ,,	14 12	3 4	Positive	
No hippocampus available for examination	S 5055	R 1246 R 1247	3438 G.	Subdural ,,	18 18	5 3	Positive	
_	-	_					=	Child bitten by Dog, Case 8. Post mortem r
_		_	_		Name of the latest and the latest an		, -	Native bitten on outer edge of left eyebro Five weeks later symptoms developed, a death followed 3 days later. Laborato examination by South African Institute if Medical Research, Johannesburg, diagnosi rabies.
No material available	S 5064	R 1248 R 1249	3626 G.	Subdural	12 12	2 3	Positive Positive	
Positive	S 5079	R 1308 R 1309	4038 G.	Subdural	14 14	4 4	Positive Positive	
	_	_	_	-		and the second s		Three months after being bitten, sympton developed, and death followed 2 days lat Laboratory examination by South Afric Institute for Medical Research confirm diagnosis of rabies.
Positive		_			_		_	No material for biological test was sent. Hist pathological examination of anterior cervic ganglion did not show Negri-bodies.
		7 700						Three weeks after being bitten, sympton developed, and death followed 4 days late Laboratory examination by South Africa Institute for Medical Research confirmed tidiagnosis of rabies.
oo decomposed	S 5088	R 1311 R 1318 R 1319	4115 G.	Subdural	15 15 15	2 3 5	Positive Positive	
To decomposed	S 5110	R 1328 R 1329	4679 G.	Subdural	11 17	1 3	Positive Positive	See Case No. 7, Table III.
Negative	S 5115	R 1335 R 1336	5099 G.	Śubdural	13 6	3 7	Positive	The owner of this farm lost 3 cows and 9 calve showing symptoms of rabies.
Positive	S 5123	R 1344 R 1345	5459 G.	Subdural	-8	5	Positive	Died sequel to operation.
Positive	S 5124	R 1346 R 1347	5460 G.	Subdural	13 16	3 4	Positive Positive	A Genet cat fought with a dog which develope symptoms of rabies 10–12 days later. Thei is a possibility that this cat as well as the or in Case 21 was bitten by the dog. No laboratory examination was carried out on the dog or Genet cat.
Гоо decomposed	S 5125	R 1348 R 1349	5464 G.	Subdural	11	2	Positive	Died sequel to operation. See remarks on Case 20
Positive	S 5136	R 1360 R 1361	5739 G.	Subdural	12 13	5 3	Positive	Died sequel to operation. See remarks on Case 20
Positive	S 5139	R 1362 R 1363	5862 G.	Subdural "	13 12	3 7	Negative Positive	
	_			21	_	=	z sature	Five weeks after being bitten in the right han by a domestic cat symptoms of rabies develope and death followed 5 days later. Laborator examination carried out by South Africa Institute for Medical Research at Johannes burg confirmed the diagnosis of rabies.
	S 5196	R 1410 R 1415	7843 (A) G.	Subdural "	17	2	Positive	Remained healthy for 3 months and destroyed This case occurred at the same time and or same farm as Case 26.
Ooubtful	S 5196	R 1412 R 1416	7843 (B) G.	Subdural ,,	11 21	7 4	Positive Negative	Clinically R 1416 showed dumb rabies. This case occurred at same time and on same farm as Case 25.

TABLE

SOUTH AFRICA.

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RABIES

Mittle litten on outer edge of left evebrow.

If ye vesks later symptoms developed, and couch followed 3 days later. Laboratory commination by South African Institute of rivides. Recently, diagnosis; rivides. hree months after being bitten on the fluger, symptoms alvelopped. Jaborskovy examination by the South African Institute of Notices Research, Johannesburg, confirmed diagnosis of rables. Phree months after being bitten, symptoms (everlogic, and death followed 2 thys isc... Laborstory examination by South African Institute for Medical Research confirmed diagnosis of tables. No unterial for blological tost was sont. Histo-pathological examination of anterior cervical gaugiton did not show Negri-bodies. Three weeks after being bitten, symptoms developed, and fleath followed 4 flays later. Laloratory examination by South African Institute for Medical Research confirmed the ulagnosis of tables. and 0 calves, A Genet cat fought with a dog which developed symptoms of rables 10–12 Usys lact. Three is a possibility that this cat as well as the one in Case 21 was bitten by the dog. No laboratory examination was carried out on this dog or Genet cat. Chinically B 1416 showed dumb rables. This case occurred at same time and on same farm as Case 25. Died sequel to operation. See remarks on Case 20. Five weeks after being bitten in the right hand by admonstic activation of table steveluped and death followed 5 days later. Laboratory examination eartied on the South African Institute for Middeal Research at Johanne-burg confirmed the diagnosis of rabies. Remained healthy for 3 months and destroyed. This case occurred at the same time and on sume farm as Case 26. Case 8. Post mortem not Killed 4 months later The owner of this farm lost 3 cows showing symptoms of rables. See Case No. 7, Tuble III. 11 Died sequel to operation. 11 sequel to operation, not show symptoms. +1 11 bitten by Dog, hold. Died Did Positive... Histo-Path. Positive... Positive... Positive. Posttive. Positive.. Positive.. Positive. Negative... Positive. Positive. Positive. Positive. Positive. Positive. Positive. Positive. 24 | | 001 1-10 # 9 44 46 12.23 2102 44 03 00 KD 200 1 10 Ç3 10.00 21 1-4 8 | | 22 | 22 | 25 | 25 13 ±31 ≅ ≅ 2121 === 555 55 00 25.20 22 22 1 17 11 BIOLOGICAL, TESTS. Subdural Subdural Subdum Subdural freeulated | Method. Subdu 3-135 G. (B) G. 78±3 (A) G. 15319 G. 2644 6. 3626 G. 4679 G. 5460 G. 13846 G. 14233 G. 15418 G. 90 5739 G. 5362 G. 45 5099 G. 5459 G. 5464 G. 1843 R 1013 R 1003 R 1604 R 1604 H 1028 8 15 18 15 19 18 19 19 R 1311 R 1318 R 1319 R 1344 R 1345 R 1415 R 1412 R 1416 Lab. R 10:10 R 1083 R 1246 R 1247 2002.5 R 1328 R 1336 R 1346 R 1347 R 1348 R 1360 R 1361 R 1362 R 1363 8 5136 8 5064 S 5110 8 5115 \$ 5123 S 5139 S 5196 N 4694 8 1968 S 1986 8 1990 CHIOS X 8 5031 8 5125 S 6196 Expt. atton available, No hippocampus able for examin десошровед. decomposed Histo-Patho, E of orlginal Positive material Positive. Negative. Positive. Positive. Positive. Positive. Doubtful, Positive Pon Too No Lo not Animal concerned in transmission. species penicillata Cynichis penicilluta (domestic). Domestle cat. i Wild cat, s Cynicis Dog. Cat 12 male, 8 years... Native male, 7 years. . . (aged ostic cat..... ('mictis penicillata Illuta. Chnicks pericillula penicillan from penicillata Chnictis penicillata Cynicis penicillata ('ynietis penicillata. Cyniclis penicillata peniciliata Cynictis penicillata Cynicity penicillata female male. felina male Unictis penie cat. Material Cjuictis 1 Native n Cynictis 1 (truetta) setis Cynirkis INH. Call. 141/5474 141/303 184/103 141/310 141/810 258/283 128/179 1393 133/44 144/82 141/310 141/1146 111/10 141/1146 141/310 01/171 141/19 No. 141/19 141/18 144/82 258/283 126/2 135/5 File 141/ (A) G.F. 40 14233 G. 14234 F. 15318 MS. 15319 G. 3437 F. 3438 G. 5098 F. 5099 G. 5458 F. 5738 F. 5739 G. 5862 G. 15417 F. 15418 G. 2644 G. 2653 F. 3 - अंच r E र्ड छ specimen No. e. 5.5 35 95. F.G. 99 1038 1336 4115 5460 5464 6291 1 3626 3846 7843 7843 (Townlands) Delarey Glen School of Agriculture (Townlands). (Townlands) Rearburg (Townlands) Abrahamskraal (Farm) Hamelfontein (Parm). (Farm). Hamelfontein (Farm), farm. Kaiferskraal (Farm). Leliufontein (Farm) nwoT) gandqea Dear Croudale (Farm). Graspan (Farm). Town or Jalala (Farin). Park Bloemfontein Damaskus, ville Dealesville Dealesville. Heliophila Dyk Knowle Resida Van LOCALITY. Schweizer Renecke Bloemfontein Trompsburg. Lichtenburg. Irompsburg. District. Fauresmith. Edenburg. Boshof.,, Edenburg. Mafeking Vryburg. Brakpan Senekal. ekal. Senekal Venter O.F.S... O.F.S... Province. O.F.S.. 0.F.S. O.P.S. 0.F.S. O.F.S. O.F.8. O.F.S. O.F.S. O.F.S. O.F.8. O.F.S. O.F.S. O.F.S. O.F.S. Tvl. C.P. Tvl. T'vl. T'vl. C.P. Tvl. Саме 2.... 1938 Case 19... August, 1933 August, 1933 Case 20....August, 1933 Case 24.... October, 1933 Case 11.... Case 22, August, 1933 Case 2 March, 1933 Case 25..... Nov., 1933 Case 26.... Nov., 1933 Case 23. Sept., 1933 Case 6...April,1983 Case 8. June, 1933 Case 10. Case 5. Case 15.... Case 16. Uase 17. Case 7. 1933 May, 1933 Case 14.

nervous distemper, particularly when accompanied with fits, are of course very commonly and naturally regarded with suspicion. In Case 21 (Table III) the peculiar behaviour of the dog was readily explained when the brain was found to harbour numerous "measles" identified as Cysticercus cellulosae.

Incidentally, also it will be noted how often brains useless for histo-pathological examination are submitted. The animals in such cases are evidently killed by stoning or clubbing and the brain and skull unnecessarily battered and pulped as a result, so that it is impossible to find a suitable piece for microscopic preparation.

THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE.

The appended map shows the districts in which rabies is known to have occurred. The remarks made in our previous article regarding the limits of the infection still hold. Comparison of this map with that for 1932 brings out clearly and significantly how districts adjacent to the ones in which rabies has previously been diagnosed are being progressively included in the known infected area. New outbreaks in the Transvaal are: Brakpan, Ventersdorp, and Schweizer Reneke; in the Orange Free State: Fauresmith, Senekal and Edenburg. These newly infected districts are shaded black in the map.

Correction.

Through an oversight the district of De Aar, an old infected area, was not marked accordingly in the map in our previous report for 1932. It is shown correctly shaded in the present one.

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TABLE II.

Rabies Diagnosed in.	Transvaal.	Orange Free State.	Cape Province.	Total Number of Cases in the Union.
Humans	1	5	_	6
Dogs	_	1	— (1)	1 (1)
Cats (Domestic)	_	2	2	4
Cattle	1 (11)		-	1 (11)
Sheep	_	2	-	2
Cynictis penicillata	4	11	-	15
Genetta felina			1 (1)	1(1)
Wild Cat (species not mentioned).		1		1
TOTALS FOR THE YEAR 1933.	6 (11)	22	3 (2)	31 (13)

The figures in brackets refer to clinically positive cases of rabies, material from which was not available for confirmation of diagnoses.

TABLE III.

		LOCALITY.		Specie				Labora-	
Month and Year.	Pro-	District.	Town or Farm.	No.	File No.	Material from.	Disease suspected.	Examina- tion for Rabies.	Remarks.
Case 1January, 1933	O.F.S.	Hoopstad	Wesselsrequest (Wesselsbron)	11455	141/2474	Cynictis penicil- lata	Rabies]	Skull badly battered, No brain material available for examination.
Case 2. January, 1933	0.F.S.	Reitz	Tweeling	12384	141/300	Domestic Cat (Kitten)	Rabies-Aggressive		Skull badly battered. No brain material available for examination.
Case 3 February, 1933	O.F.S.	Tromspburg	Trompsburg	13927	141/310	Cymictis penicil- lata	Rabies		Skull badly battered. No brain material available for examination.
Case 4. March, 1933	Tvl.	Johannesburg	Newtown	15261 15262	126/2	Dog	Rabies	Negative	Probably a case of nervous distemper.
Case 5	S.W.A.	Grootfontein	Abenab Mine.	15540	151/—	Dog (Dobberman bitch)	Rabies: Symptoms: convision, swaying, staggering, foaming at the mouth, apparently recovered, and two months later the same symptoms developed. Animal was shot	Negative	1
Case 6	Tvi.	Pretoria	Pretoria North.	446	134/66	Cow	Rabies	Negative	Ī
Case 7	0.F.S.	Senekal	Resida	3890	141/303	Cynictis penicil- lata	Rabies.		No brain material available In July owner of farm sent in another C. penicillata. See Case No. 17, Table I. which proved to be rabies.
Case 8 June, 1933	C.P.	Grahamstown	Grahamstown	3961 3962	144/54	Dog	Rabies	Negative	Probably a case of nervous distemper.
Case 9June, 1933	0.F.S.	Edenburg	Kromspruit	4036	141/1146	Dog	Rabies: Three weeks after fighting two sick meereats, dog became stiff, paralysed, and snarled at owner	Negative	1

TABLE III—(continued).

		LOCALITY		35		-		Labora-	
Month and Year.	Pro-	District.	Town or Farm.	Men No.	File No.	Material from.	Discase suspected,	Examina- tion for Rabies.	Remarks.
Case 10July, 1933	Tvl.	Pretoria	Balmoral	4329	131/151	Dog	Rabies: Two weeks after whelping, bitch developed itts. Death set in 3 days later	Negative	i
Case 11August, 1933	Tvl.	Johannesburg	Modder B Mine	5513 5514	126/451	Suricata suri- catta	Rabies	Negative	
Case 12 August, 1933	Natal	Richmond	Greenhill	5690 5691	155/26	Dog	Babies	Negative	
Case 13 Sept., 1933	TvI.	Brmelo	Shepstone	6301 6302	124/12	Dog	Rabies	Negative	Probably a case of nervous distemper.
Case 14	Tvl.	Johannesburg	Johannesburg	6428 6429	126/2	Suricata suri- catta	Rabies	Nogative	
Case 15 Oct., 1933	C.P.	Vryburg	Illaura Farm	6753 6754	144/474	Heifer	Rabies	Negative	
Case 16 Oct., 1933	C.P.	Vryburg	Illaura Farm	6921 6922	144/474	Bovine	Rabies	Negative	
Case 17 Oct., 1933	O.F.S.		Zwartranddam.	7321 7322	144/1964	Horse	Rabics	Negative	
Case 18 Oct., 1933	TvI.	Potgietersrust	Klipputgat	7324 7325	138/611	Jackal	Rabies	Negative	
Case 19 Nov., 1933	O.F.S.	Dealesville	Dealesville	8132 8133	ļ	Nagaapie	Rabies	Negative	
Case 20 Nov., 1933	Tvl.	Wolmaransstad.	Klippan farm	8337	139/71	Dog	Rabies	Negative	ı
Case 21 Dec., 1933	Tvl.	Johannesburg	Braamfontein	8375	126/2	Dog	Rabies: Dog found walking about aimlessly on outskirts of town	;	Large number of Cysticerens cellulosae were found in the brain.
Case 22 Dec., 1933	O.F.S.	Trompsburg	Trompsburg	9130 9131	141/310	Dog	Rabies	Negative	Ī

