

**THE COLONIES OF *CULICOIDES* (DIPTERA, CERATOPOGONIDAE)
AT PIRBRIGHT** by J. BOORMAN (*Animal Virus Research Institute,
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An account, illustrated with coloured slides, was given of the colonies of *Culicoides variipennis*, *C. riethi* and *C. nubeculosus* maintained at the Animal Virus Research Institute, Pirbright. The method used is based on that of Jones, Potter and Baker, with some modifications; larvae are fed upon a nutrient-broth medium enriched with grass meal, and the adults are provided with anaesthetised mice for a blood meal. The *C. riethi* colony is almost entirely autogenous, although a few adults occasionally take blood. Similar methods could probably be used for maintaining colonies of other species of the sub-genus *Monoculicoides*.

**SOME EXPERIMENTS ON THE INFECTION OF *CULICOIDES*
(DIPTERA, CERATOPOGONIDAE) WITH VIRUSES.**

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Experiments were described to determine whether the viruses Main Drain, Bunyamwera and D'Aguilar could multiply in *Culicoides variipennis* and *C. nubeculosus*. Both species of midge were easily infected with Main Drain virus, both by inoculation of virus into the insect and by ingestion of blood-virus mixtures. In contrast, Bunyamwera virus disappeared rapidly from midges fed upon viraemic baby mice. Midges fed upon mixtures of blood and D'Aguilar virus through a chick-skin membrane did not become infected, but this virus multiplied to a high titre when inoculated into *C. variipennis*.
