

VI. (a) - NOTES ON NEEDS FOR ENTOMOLOGICAL  
RESEARCH ON CORAL ATOLLS

Very little is known regarding the insect faunas of atolls. It is needless to stress our ignorance of the faunas, because it is all too obvious. But there are many more problems than the basic knowledge of just what species occur. We want to know their distributions. How do they fit into the plant-pollenating picture? What percentage of atoll plants are insect-pollenated? What part is played by phytophagous insects and the atoll plants? What about the parasites of birds? Bird diseases spread on atolls by insects? What about insect scavengers and animals? Practically nothing is known about the very interesting and peculiar marine flies which are more widespread in the Pacific than is generally realized. What are the seasonal fluctuations and how are they followed by insect population. Do the insects aestivate or hibernate? What about data on overseas dispersal - a very important point indeed. What conditions are most likely to bring in overseas stragglers? From what directions? What happens to fresh water forms when ponds dry up?

E. C. Zimmerman