

*Ophicephalus* is a long, median tube extending up to the caudal region and partitioned by a perforated diaphragm. The swim-bladder of *Anabas* is different from that of *Ophicephalus* and the two are not comparable to each other as described by Berg.

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University of Delhi,  
Delhi, September 17, 1957.

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#### FURTHER RECORD OF OCCURRENCE OF *CRYPTOTERMES DUDLEYI* (BANKS) IN INDIA (INSECTA : ISOPTERA : KALOTERMITIDAE)

*Cryptotermes dudleyi* (Banks), commonly known as the American Powder Post Termite, is known to occur in the neotropical, oriental and Australian regions. From the oriental region, it has been recorded from Ceylon, Java and the Philippines (Snyder<sup>1</sup>). Recently, its

occurrence at Khulna in East Pakistan (Chaudhry<sup>2</sup>) and in Barkuda Island, Chilka Lake (Orissa) [Roonwal and Sen-Sarma<sup>3</sup>] has also been reported. Further distributional records are: J plot, 30 miles north-east of Nankhana Range Headquarter and Jhingakhali in the Mangrove Forests, Sundarbans in Lower Bengal. It is apparently confined to the coastal region.

This species attacks wooden poles, pillars, doors, windows and all types of bamboo structures. Its intensity of attack is usually of a severe nature and the wooden structures are completely excavated and ruined with galleries. All structures of wood and bamboo constructed near the creeks and rivers in Sundarbans are found to be highly susceptible.

The characteristic damage of these termites is easily detected by the presence of coarse and hard pellets of excreta found scattered on the ground below. These pellets are thrown out from the circular holes made in the wood. Each pellet is more or less oval in shape, having six longitudinal ridges with concave interspaces.

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Dehra Dun, September 28, 1957.

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#### NOBEL AWARD FOR MEDICINE AND PHYSIOLOGY—1957

THE award of the Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology to Professor Daniel Bovet marks the success of a great research worker on sulphanamides, antihistamines, and muscle relaxants. Professor Bovet, now aged 50, was born in Neuchatel, Switzerland, the son of a Swiss psychologist, Pierre Bovet, and is now a naturalized Italian. He graduated at the University of Geneva in 1929, and for nearly twenty years was associated with Professor Fournieu in the Pharmacology Department at the Institut Pasteur, Paris. In 1947, he moved to Rome to become Director of the Pharmacology Department at the Instituto Superiore di Sanita. With others, Professor Bovet studied prontosil in the early 1930's, identifying the sulphonamide group as having

the antibacterial action; they then introduced sulphanilamide into clinical use. He was the first to synthesize an antihistamine compound and did much to develop the range of these drugs that have found such wide application in medicine. Turning from antihistamines to muscle relaxants, Bovet was again successful. His research on compounds with curare-like effects led to the introduction of the short-acting muscle relaxant succinylcholine into modern anaesthesia. He is now investigating the groups of compounds commonly known as tranquillizers. Professor Bovet's wife, Filomena Bovet-Nitti has collaborated closely with him in some of his main researches. (B.M.J., 1957, p. 1045.)