

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

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P+P  
Pesticides research

FROM: JJM

DATE: July 8, 1975

TO:	JAP		
	RWR	SEPARATE COPY	✓

COMMENTS:

*RWR*

SUBJECT:

On June 23-24 I attended the sixth meeting of the biodegradable pesticides group which was held under Bob Metcalf's direction at Urbana, Illinois. The principals in the program (Metcalf, Casida, Wilkinson, O'Brien, Fukuto) understand that there will not be a renewal of our grant of \$500,000 towards this activity during the next three years--notwithstanding the success of the program over the past six years. In executive session we came out with the following evaluation:

1. RF support at these laboratories was instrumental in bringing about a drastic change in public and governmental attitudes towards pesticides. It tided the best research labs on pesticides over a very difficult time when other organizations would or could not support research on pesticides.

2. Some new biodegradable pesticides, particularly among the pyretheroids, are nearly ready for commercial synthesis and production. The same is true of several analogues of DDT. Not nearly as much, however, has been accomplished as had been originally hoped in turning out biodegradable pesticides alternative to the chlorinated hydrocarbons.

3. A core of graduate students and of postdoctoral specialists in toxicology are now in a position in industry and in academic labs to carry on research in this field.

4. The multi-disciplinary, multi-university program designed to search for biodegradable pesticides has served as a model for programs on other problems not only with respect to insect control but with respect to agricultural development in this country generally.

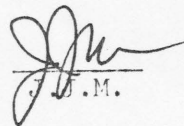
5. Working separately, the biodegradable pesticide group never would have accomplished what they have accomplished in working together, and it is with a bit of nostalgia that this group viewed their last meeting together under RF auspices. If they do not continue under their own steam to convene periodically, they will be sparring one with another as was the case previous to RF involvement.

A somewhat more exhaustive evaluation will emerge when the book to be published by J. Wiley and Sons, "The Future for Insecticides: Needs and Prospects" is published later this year and when Bob Metcalf submits his assessment of the program.

We discussed two ways in which the RF might continue to be helpful to the group. The first would be to consider providing postdoctoral experiences to selected young toxicologists from one or several of these labs under our normal postdoctoral program in the U.S. The second might be to bring the group together on an ad hoc basis at times mutually advantageous to the RF and to these entomologist/toxicologists.

We discussed holding a meeting in November, 1975 in New York to draw upon Metcalf, Casida, et.al. of the biodegradable pesticide program, Shorey and several of his colleagues of the pheromone group, Adkisson and one or two of his men in the plant resistance group, and one or two juvenile hormone experts not simply to recapitulate what has been accomplished in these areas to date but to project, as we projected six years ago, what aspects of insect control the RF might support in the 5-10 years ahead.

I would appreciate your comments on these points.



J.J.M.

JJM:gjb