

Introductory Remarks

HARRY HOOGSTRAAL

Ticks cause enormous losses to the meat, milk, and leather industries throughout the world and transmit a remarkable variety of wild and domestic animal pathogens to man. Where tickborne diseases cause consistent high incidence of human illness, and where the animal industry is highly developed, the nature of these infections is usually being investigated at a rather sophisticated level. However, many other tickborne diseases of man and lower animals occur sporadically or are more or less poorly recognized, and their medically significant sequelae often remain unappreciated. In certain regions of low human population density, important tickborne diseases remain virtually unknown and are recognized only when more frequent human intrusion occurs, or when economic development programs are initiated. The variety of direct and indirect relationships between ticks and their various hosts in the natural history of disease transmission probably equals or exceeds those of all other bloodsucking arthropods.

We are fortunate today to have a panel of distinguished scientists working in the United States and Canada who will discuss recent developments in the rapidly moving and expanding research devoted to tickborne diseases and their control. In addition, a more humble tick-picker, your chairman, who works mostly abroad, will discuss research on other continents. We are grateful to Drs. O. H. Graham, C. E. Hopla, K. L. Knight, and H. D. Newson for sponsoring this Symposium.