

with TTX. One must also question whether the authors are actually reporting block of conduction or merely increase in threshold in some of their studies. For example, when the duration of the shock was increased 10-fold in the experiments on the effect of pH there was about a 1000-fold decrease in the potency of TTX. The authors also fail to take note of the considerable number of pertinent studies by others related to the local anesthetic actions of TTX, structure activity relationships and effects of pH on local anesthetic activity. (For example studies by Dettbarn, Kao, Moore, Narahashi, Rosenberg and others.) There are other annoying errors of a more minor nature, such as referring to wrong figure (p. 61), poor definition of terms (Tables 2 and 4), confusing choice of words (p. 63—low and high instead of rapid and slow) and misinterpretation of data (p. 62—Discussion of Fig. 3B).

P.R.

LICHT, L. E. (Dept. of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada).
Unpalatability and toxicity of toad eggs. *Herpetologica* 24, 93, 1968.

OVARIAN EGGS from *Bufo valliceps* were toxic to mice and frogs (*Rana pipiens*) when injected i.p. Toads, however, showed no ill effects. Hungry mice and fishes (*Lepomis megalotis*, *L. cyanellus*, *Ictalurus melas*) refused to feed on the eggs. Force-fed snakes (*Salvadora lineata*, *Opheodrys aestivus*) died within hours after ingestion of the eggs. On the other hand the toad eating snake *Thamnophis sirtalis* proved to be resistant.

The egg-poison (bufogenins?) and possibly olfactory substances seem to protect the toad eggs against predators.

H.M.

MARSHALL, T. C. (Government Ichthyologist, Department of Harbours and Marine, Queensland, Australia). *Tropical Fishes of the Great Barrier Reef*. New York: American Elsevier Publishing Company, 239 p., 1966.

THIS book is an abridged version of Marshall's *Fishes of the Great Barrier Reef and Coastal Waters of Queensland*. Illustrations appearing in the larger book have been retained but the original text has been shortened considerably. In essence, it consists of brief descriptions of the fish species figured in the excellent coloured and black and white plates which comprise the bulk of the book. Although useful to students of fish toxins who wish to make a tentative identification of fish collected in the region, only brief mention is made of the venom apparatus possessed by some species and of the poisonous flesh possessed by some species. In view of the title of the book it is unfortunate that some of the species illustrated do not occur on the reefs of the Great Barrier Reef.

R.E.

CLARK, L. and WHITWELL, G. B. (School of Veterinary Science, University of Queensland, Brisbane and Oxley Veterinary Clinic, Brisbane, Australia). Ciguatera poisoning in cats in Brisbane. *Aust. vet. J.* 44, 81, 1968.

IN 1967 an outbreak of ciguatera involving 33 people and stemming from the ingestion of flesh from specimens of the narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (*Cymbium commersoni*) occurred in Brisbane. This paper describes signs exhibited by three adult cats which had eaten some of the flesh of the mackerel involved in the outbreak and which were subsequently presented for veterinary examination. It is pointed out that ciguatera poisoning of cats and dogs probably occurs periodically in Australia but has not been recorded previously. The possibility of confusing the signs elicited in cats and dogs by ciguatoxin with those elicited in cats and dogs by scrub tick (*Ixodes halocyclus*) venom is mentioned but the authors note features (e.g. the marked fore limb as well as hind limb paralysis caused by ciguatoxin) which would assist differential diagnosis.

R.E.