

To: Chasson - mm/df

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



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Dr. Robert Chasson
University of Denver
Department of Physics
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Dear Dr. Chasson:

Thank you for sending me the report of yellow rain in the Soviet Union. I wonder if the explanation to Gavasheli is correct. At one point we considered the possibility that the yellow rain in Southeast Asia might have resulted from condensation in air, laden with pollen, but crude calculations made it seem unlikely that one could get rain drops with enough material in them to fit the observations. I wonder if the rain reported could be bee feces. Indeed, there is some kind of theoretical limit that can be calculated for the amount of solid material present in rain produced by the condensation/collision process in dusty air. Would not collision between dust particles set some limit on the dust concentration at the start of the condensation procedure?

Sincerely,

Matthew Meselson
Professor of Biochemistry

MM/db