

Robert Holloway

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Dear Dr. Meselson:

Thank you for the reprints. In answer to your question as to whether the pollen was contained in the raindrops or not, I am convinced that it was in the drops. I did not see the rain that produced the yellow water in Arkansas, so I cannot be sure on those, but about 18 months ago I noticed a shower with visibly yellow drops here in Nevada. I then looked at the water on the ground and it appeared to be pollen. This was at the beginning of a shower when the rainfall was light. This is not the same instance as the one described in my first letter where I noticed pollen stains on the pavement.

For radioactive pollutants, the concentrations in various fractions of a rain have been measured and the first portions are often 10 times as concentrated (per liter) as the later portions. The concentration also tends to be inversely correlated with rainfall rate.

In the case of the yellow rain drops mentioned above, I believe that the rain cleared up again as the rain continued and as the rainfall rate increased. It may be that pollen is washed out fairly quickly.

I suspect that rain with pollen concentrations high enough to give the individual drops a yellowish tint is uncommon, but that a fair percentage of light showers will yield water containing visible amounts of pollen in the bulk water.

Sincerely Yours,

Robert Holloway

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