



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE**

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Our Reference: 64/9/36

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Professor Matthew Meselson  
 Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
 Harvard University  
 7 Divinity Avenue  
 CAMBRIDGE. MASS. 02138. USA.

Dear Matthew,

Your further comments on bee faeces were interesting, especially as you mention uric acid. You will see from the enclosed report that we also have looked at uric acid content. We have not been able to do a thorough comparison of bee excrement with Yellow Rain because we do not have sufficient samples. The April 1982 samples have been used up for various examinations. We therefore suggest that the various nations with samples examine theirs for uric acid and exchange results. Our US contact is Dr E.W. Sarver of Chemical Systems Laboratory (or whatever it is now called).

It follows from the above that we cannot send you any specimens, as they have all been used up apart from a few traces on leaves and pebbles. I am not sure whether you have seen a copy of my earlier report with photographic prints. In case you have not I enclosed some photos of the specimens.

I am convinced that bee faeces are not the only way that pollen is naturally deposited in drops. Shirley has reported seeing pollen deposits (splattered and rainlike) on her brother's car after it had been standing overnight in conditions of early morning dew.

You comment on my earlier conclusion that the April 1982 samples were fakes. Remember at that time pollen was not generally known as a component of Yellow Rain. Therefore the fact that the samples had no toxicity, and that we knew of no natural way pollen could be deposited in drops led us to conclude they must have been man-made. Now I am not so sure.

I was able to attend the Mycotoxin Symposium in Sydney on the 12 to 15 August. The presentations by Col David Bunner and his staff from USAMRIID at Fort Detrick continued to impress me. I had heard him before when I was in the US and felt the research was good quality toxicology, which will be one permanent asset from the current affair.

2.

You have no doubt read Grant Evans' "The Yellow Rainmakers".

We continue to learn in obscure areas of science. After  
bee shit, what next?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hugh".

(HUGH D. CRONE)  
Head, Personnel Protection  
Group

Encls. 1. OCD 83/13  
2. Photos