NOTE TO THE LIFE CYCLE OF ORNITHODOROS DENMARKI

On 4 April 1960, during our stay in Cuba, we collected 1,460 specimens of the argasid tick Ornithodoros demarki in Batabani, Holguin, November at the beach and in the rocks near the village, where this species was already found in 1957 (Cruz de la Roca and Ferrer, 1957). The adults were concentrated on rock hollows where they were found 1,460 specimens available for virological testing 12 strains of viruses were isolated (Daniel, V. et al., Acta virul, 1962: 146-149). Apart from the said virus also isolations of Babesia and Rana viruses were reported from other localities from this tick species (Clifford, C. M., and K. Kurokawa, 1960: 83-86, 1950). Due to these facts, and insufficient knowledge of the biology of this tick species we consider it expedient to present some data on its development, although obtained from scanty material.

Larvae were collected on 12-day-old chicks, nymphs on chickens aged one week and adults on cock. The ticks were kept in glass tubes with glass tapers at 26±0.5°C and relative humidity 75-80% given by technical parameters of the rearing box, with a short-day photoperiod (8 hours of light and 16 hours of darkness). The larvae had been feeding for 6-10 days, mounted into nympha I afater 10-14 days. These nymphs I metamorphosed into nymph II without feeding after 27-31 days. The nymphs II had been feeding for 30-60 minutes and following 17 to 20 days mounted into nymph III. Thirty three out of 30 unfed larvae which had hatched from egg batches laid by collected females during the transport, engorged at the beginning of May. The 10 nymphs II and 3 nymphs III were gradually developed. Further development could not be accomplished. Out of 25, 25 allowed to feed at the end of July, a single female oviposited after 13 days and larvae hatched within 14 days since the beginning of oviposition. The number of eggs produced was 137. Out of 25, 25 allowed to feed in September 1960, 50% of the female ticks oviposited, namely as late as 2 November in the following year and larved hatched on 28 May. The remaining 25% of the female ticks oviposited, namely as late as 2 November in the following year and larved hatched on 28 May. The remaining 25% of the female ticks oviposited, namely as late as 2 November in the following year and larved hatched on 28 May.