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BIKINI RADIOBIOLOGICAL RESURVEY OF 1948

Applied Fisheries Laboratory University of Washington Seattle, Washington

Lauren R. Donaldson Director

February 1949

This report is based on work performed under Contract No. W-28-094-eng-33 with the Atomic Energy Commission and in cooperation with the U.S. Navy.

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BIKINI RADIOBIOLOGICAL RESURVEY OF 1948.*

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Applied Fisheries Laboratory

University of Washington

Part 1. Organization and personnel.

Introduction

At the request of the Atomic Energy Commission, with the active participation of the U. S. Navy, a radiobiological resurvey of Bikini Atoll was conducted during the summer of 1948. The University of Washington, Applied Fisheries Laboratory was designated by Supplements 5 and 6 to the Contract No. W-28-094-eng-33 to carry out the field problem and to report the findings.

A preliminary outline of the program of studies for the second radiobiological resurvey of Bikini for the summer of 1948 (Report UWFL-10) was prepared and forwarded to the commission for approval. This report, in part, outlined the objectives as follows:

> "A resurvey of the Bikini Atoll during the summer of 1948 should be undertaken to further our knowledge of the over-all biological problems of the effect of the release of energy from atomic bombs above or under water.

Biological studies are of necessity long time, complex projects. The Bikini biological studies are so very complicated that only through <u>continuous</u> long time effort can we hope to understand the basic principles involved.

* This report is based on work performed under Contract No.W-28-094-eng-33 with the Atomic Energy Commission and in cooperation with the U.S. Navy.

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES UNIV. OF WASH, LIBRARIES "The fundamental data that need to be gathered at regular time intervals for re-evaluation of the problems involved are grouped as follows: (1) the presence or absence of radiation in the various types of marine organisms; (2) the distribution of radioactive substances in the marine plants and animals from different geographical locations within the atoll; and (3) the amounts of radioactive substances in certain tissues and organs."

Organization

The radiobiological resurvey of Bikini during the summer of 1948 was a fine example of teamwork in research. The Atomic Energy Commission, the U. S. Navy and the University of Washington each contributed personnel, equipment and facilities to make the project possible.

The Atomic Energy Commission provided the administration and financial support. The Washington office of the commission, especially the Division of Biology and Medicine, under the direction of Dr. Shields Warren, and Dr. James H. Jensen, Chief of the Biology Branch, were very helpful in expediting the research. The Hanford Operations Office of the Atomic Energy Commission, especially Mr. V. K. Crane, handled local arrangements for the commission in a most understanding manner.

The U. S. Navy provided transportation to and from the area. Ships, equipment, shore facilities, communications and many other services that made living and working in the area possible, were furnished.

Captain J. S. Russell, U.S.N. aided in many ways in the planning, organizing and expediting of the expedition.

The Island Commander stationed at Ewajalein atoll, Captain J. J. Vest, U.S.N. and his very efficient staff of officers and enlisted personnel were most helpful and considerate. Especially noteworthy was the personal interest of this fine naval group in the success and welfare of the Expedition.

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The Navy assigned Lt. J. J. Schmidt, U.S.N. as naval liaison officer. Lt. Schmidt accompanied the expedition from the mainland to the Pacific areas and return. His services were especially appreciated. for he handled with tact and skill the many problems of civilians working with a military organization.

The University of Washington, as contractor, provided technical personnel, facilities and equipment for carrying out the research. The administration of the program by Dr. Raymond B. Allen, President, and Nelson Wahlstrom, Comptroller, was understanding and efficient.

Technical personnel

A total of twelve technical staff members were used to carry out the field problem. The nucleus of the field party personnel was drawn from the staff of the Applied Fisheries Laboratory where experienced personnel was available. To increase the specialty skills available for evaluation of the radiation problems at Bikini, specialists were borrowed from other universities for the field trip.

Since training of technicians in radiation biology is a definite part of the over-all program of which this work forms a part, promising students were included in the field party. A balance in the program was maintained by assigning a junior member of the staff to work with each senicr member in carrying out the various phases of the work.

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Members of the Bikini Radiobiology Resurvey 1948.

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	Assignment	Permanent address and <u>occupation</u>
Donaldson, Lauren R., Ph.D. ^{1,2,3}	Groupleader and biologist	Prof. of Fisheries; Di- rector, Applied Fisheries Laboratory; U. of W., Seattle 5, Wash.
Seymour, Allyn H. ²	Executive officer, biostatistician and plankton work	Research Associate, Ap- plied Fisheries Labora- tory, U. of W.
Welander, Arthur D., Ph.D. ^{1,2}	Radiobiologist and ichthyologist	Asst.Frof.of Fisheries and Research Associate, Applied Fisheries Lab., U. of W.
White, Asher A., M.D. ¹	Medical Consultant	Lecturer, Univ. of Minn. College of Medicine and Nicollet Clinic, Minn- eapolis, Minnesota
Hollenberg, Geo., Ph.D.	Marine algae	Prof. of Botany, Univ. of Redlands, Redlands, Calif.
Bullock, Theodore, Ph.D.	Marine inverte- brates	Assoc.Prof. of Zoology, Univ. of Calif., Los Angeles, Los Angeles,Cal.
Tinker, Spencer W.	Marine biology	Director, Waikiki Aquar- ium, Univ. of Hawaii, Honolulu, T.H.
Held, Edward E.	Marine inverte- brates	Graduate Research, Dept.of Zoology, U.C.L.A. Los Angeles, California
Lowman, Frank G.	Biologist, elec-	Research Associate, Ap- plied Fisheries Lab., U. of W.,Seattle, Wash.
Koch, John J.	Tissue processing, radiation detec- tion	Graduate Research, Ap- plied Fisheries Lab. U. of W. Seattle 5, Wash.
Osborn, Richard H. ²	Biologist, photo- grapher	Student, Medical School U. of W. Seattle, Wash.
Donaldson, John R.	Fisheries biology and plankton	Student, School of Fish- eries Univ. of Wash. Seattle, Wash.

¹ Operations Crossroads, radiobiology, 1946 ² Bikini Scientific Resurvey, radiobiology, 1947 ³ Operations Sandstone, radiobiology, 1948 ⁴ UNIVERSITY ARCHVES UNIVERSITY UNIVERSITY ARCHVES UNIVERSITY UNIVERS UNIVERSITY UNIVERS

With the completion of the field project the "borrowed" personnel were returned to their various permanent stations. The work of organizing the data and writing the reports has been the work of the regular staff members of the Applied Fisheries Laboratory.

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Naval equipment provided for the resurvey

In addition to the transportation and facilities provided by the Navy to move the personnel and equipment from the mainland to the Pacific area and return, two small ships were provided for transportation and to provide living accommodations and laboratory facilities.

The LCI (L) 1054, with Lt. (j.g.) Som Mansfield as commanding officer, was assigned to the expedition for an operations base. The ICI with a few alterations to provide deck laboratory space proved to be a very acceptable ship for field operations. In addition to the LCI-1054 a support ship, the AG-140 accompanied the expedition from Kwejalein to Bikini to transport the three (3) small landing craft needed for work boats within the logoon.

Mail, supplies and personnel were transported between Kwajeloin and Bikini by P.B.Y. operating out of Kwajelein.

Time schedule and work orograms

The research exhedition left San Francisco, California on Sunday, June 27, 1948, via Naval Air Transport and after a ston-over at Honolulu arrived at Kwajalein, M.I. on June 30.

From Kwajalein to Bikini transportation was by ship. The LCI-1054 arrived at Bikini on July 3, 1948, and remained until July 20, 1948, when the ships and personnel were moved to Eniwetok. UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

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The LCI(L)-1054 was assigned to the expedition as an operations base. The forward deck was covered with a tarp to provide deck living space. The after deck was used as a laboratory for processing materials.

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During the eighteen (18) days at Bikini collections of material for the study of radiation were made at cleven (11) major stations. This material contained representative samples of the faunal and floral systems from the lagoon, the inner and outer reefs, and from the islands. A total of 1918 ashed samples were prepared for determination of the contained radioactive materials. A vast quantity of material was preserved for future study in the laboratories on the mainland.

A survey was completed of the major islands to determine the amount of contamination with radioactive debris and drift material. Field counts were also made of the extent of contamination of the land masses, land plants and animals, etc. from the contamination of fission products found in the lagoon.

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The AG-140 accompanied the expedition from Kwajalein to Bikini to transport the three (3) small landing craft used for work within the lagoon.

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES UNIV. OF WASH. LIBRARIES Part 2. Evaluation of radioactive materials in fish collected at Bikini during the summer of 1948.

Collecting methods

Methods of collecting fish were similar to those used at Bikini in 1946 and 1947 (Report No. UWLF-7). The collections were principally of reef fish killed by rotenone, supplemented by some fish caught by hook and line.

Collecting areas

Eleven areas geographically distributed throughout the atoll, which had been sampled in previous years, were selected as collecting areas. These areas from west to east in a clockwise direction were Boro, Nami, Uku, Amen, Amen-Bikini, Bikini, boat anchorage, Rokar, Enyu, Arji and Erik. Samples were collected on the lagoon side of the islands, supplemented whenever possible with similar collections from the ocean side of the island or reef. The attached map has the major collecting areas marked with an x.

Groups sampled

1

The fish selected from the collections for determination of contained activity were in one of the following twelve groups: Blenny, cardinal, damsel, eel. goat fish, grouper, lizard, p.rrot, siganid, squirrel, surgeon and wrasse. These groups, based on the 1946 and 1947 collections, were selected as being commonly available and representative of the reef fish taken by our means of collection. An effort was made to collect one or more specimens of each of these

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groups at each collecting station. Some fish other than those in the groups mentioned above were sampled especially if all twelve groups were not available.

Number of samples

A total of 1152 samples were prepared from tissues taken from 187 specimens.

Tissues sampled

Selection of tissues sampled was also standardized with six tissues - skin, muscle, bone, liver, gut and gills - usually taken. The spleen, kidney or gonad was also sampled when fish of sufficient size were available to yield an adequate sample of these tissues.

Sample preparation

The samples were prepared for counting by placing approximately 1 gram of tissue - if that much tissue was available - on a one inch stainless steel plate stamped from .005 inch stock. The samples were heated to about 120° C on a hot plate to initiate the reduction to an ash. After the tissues charred, a drop of olive oil was added to reduce sputtering. The trays with the tissue residue were then placed in a muffle furnace and the temperature gradually raised to 370° C. After two hours of heating the temperature was raised to 500° C and maintained until a white ash was obtained. A drop or more of nitric acid was then added and the samples removed to cool. If the sample became hydroscopic it was reheated to 500° C. and a drop of sulfuric acid added. In spite of such treatment samples with a high calcium tontent remained hydroscopic. Finally, after completing ashing and

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upon cooling the plates were mounted on cards, covered with cellophane and sealed with Scotch tape. All of the fish samples were prepured in the field but were not counted until two months later.

Counting procedure

The samples were counted for beta-garma activity only. The counting was done at the Applied Fisheries Laboratory, University of Washington between September 15 - 28, 1948. With only one scaler in operation and with a large number of fish and other samples to be counted it was decided beforehand to make five minute counts. (See discussion below under "<u>Error</u>"). Five minute recounts were made of samples whose net original counts were 0 to 4 per minute. The counter was set in a circular lead shield with a sliding plate holder and connected with a scale of 64 scaler. Both products were made by Victoreen, the scaler being Model X-327.

Corrections in counts

The sample counts were corrected for background, for weight of sample and for geometry. For the entire counting period, the average background count was 17.0 per minute. Using a U.S. Bureau of Standard Ra D+E standard of approximately 108 disintegrations per second the geometry was calculated as being 18.0 per cent. No correction was made for scattering, for self absorption, for absorption by air and by counter window or for the probability of ionization.

Colculations

Counts were eventually converted to millimicrocuries per kilogram of sample by the following formula:

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m_uc/kg. = net count per minnuto (sample wt.)(geometry) (2.2)

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If the number of disinegrations per second for one curie is 3.7×10^{10} and this value is corrected for convorsion to minutes and then the equation above is converted to millimicrocuries the resulting value is 2.2 as appears in the denominator.

The total activity of an individual fish was calculated as the sum of the activity of all of its tissues. This value was obtained in the following manner: (millimicrocuries per kilogram of <u>skin</u>) x (ratio of total tissue weight to total body weight) \neq (m/uc/kg. of <u>muscle</u>) x (body ratio) \neq ditto for <u>bone</u> \neq for <u>liver</u>, <u>etc.</u> = millimicrocuries per kilogram of fish. The body ratios, Table I, were obtained by weighing the tissues of one fish from eight solected types. Fish, other than these listed, were placed under one of the eight types as follows: blenny, column 1; cardinal, goat fish, grouper, lizard, variola, snapper, pig fish, remora and half beak, column 2; damsel, column 3; wrasse, column 4; puffer, column 6; and jack; tuna and rainbow runner, column 7.

Table I. Ratio of Tissuo Woight to Total Body Woight for Eight Selected Typos of Bikini Fish

	Fish Tissuo	1. 001	2. brown spot. grouper	3. convict surgeon	4. parrot	5. siganid	6. squir- rol	7. 2 lino macko- ral	8. shark (osti- mated)
total total	skin musclo	.108 .686	.064	.065 .567	.114	.025 .616	.173	.783	.100
tia t to weigh	bono liver gut	.099 .013 .084	.224 .003	.175 .020 .151	.220	.164	.200 .007 .063	.005	.100
Ratio weigh body	gills splcen	.009	.021	.022	.015	.013	.019	.025	.050
	Total	•999	•999	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000

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Error in not count at the 95% confidence level was calculated from the formula, per cont error $= (K/\sqrt{C})(100)$ where K is a constant equal to 1.96 for the 95% confidence level. C is the total count and 100 the correction for per cent.

Analysis of data:

The data was analyzed with the purpose of estimating activity by areas by species and by tissue. Analysis by area was based on the average activity of all fish sampled from one collecting area. Explanation of the calculation of activity by species is given above and is an average for all areas. Tissue activity was calculated as the average activity per kilogram of tissue for all fish from all areas.

Rosults:

The results are shown in tabular form in Table II and in graphical form in Figures 1 2 3 4 and 5. In general the counts were low usually not exceeding twice background (see Figure 1). By areas the activity in the western half of the atell (Erik Bore, Namu) was slightly lower but otherwise no pattern was apparent as is shown in Fugure 2. Average activity by species ranged from 9.60 to 0 millimicrocuries per kilogram of fish. The activity by species listed in the following descending erder of magnitude, is as follows; lizard, wrasso, half-beak, siganid, barracuda, damsel, parret, cardinal, blenny, surgeon, snapper, goat fish, grouper, jack, eel, variela, remora, tuna, squirrel, mackeral, pig fish, rainbow runner, puffer, mullet and shark. See Figure 3. Activity in

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Both Summa Counts By Arun and Spanies of 1968 bikini Fish Samples

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Expressed as Fillinierospies per Kilegram of Fish

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Ussue ranged from 22.7 to 3.0 millimicrocuries per kilogram of tissue. : Figure 4 the tissues are arranged as to activity in the following Lisconding order: spleon, liver, kidney, gut, skin, bene, gills, muscle : dovary.

Error

The per cent error in counting and hence in estimating activity is relatively great due both to the low activity of the samples and to the short counting period. For these reasons values of about four or five to zero millimicrocuries per kilogram are in general of questionable significance.

The per cent error could have been greatly reduced by making lenger counts. This error was reduced in 603 samples by making five minute recounts. These samples had original net counts between 0 and 4 per minute. Activity was then computed from the average of the two counts which is equivalent to an average based on a 10 minute counting period thus reducing the per cent error. The recounts were made a month and a half after the original counts but since it was twenty seven months after the blast no correction was made for decay between time of original count and recount. When the 1152 samples were grouped as to per cent error of the net count, 14 samples were in the class of 0-25, 47 samples in the class of over 100% error. The count of the other 434 samples was background or less. The histogram of Figure 5 is a chart of these date.

In estimating the activity by areas there may be a slight error due to the fact that exactly the same species were not collected at

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Average Millimicrocuries per Kilogram of Wet Tissue



Average Beta-Gamma Counts of Fish by Areas Expressed as Millimicrocuries Per Kilogram of Wet Tissue

Figure 2

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*The 434 samples not entered in this total were zero count or less.

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my two areas. Since there was a deliberate effort to collect in each the species noted at the beginning of this report, the error would be insignificant and well within the range of other errors.

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The calculation of total body activity assumes that the body ratios of Table I would hold for all fish of similar shape or relationship, and that all tissues of the body could be grouped as shown in the same table. These assumptions are not altogether correct but the error involved is relatively insignificant.

In the figures and tables relating to activity by species and by tissue it is well to not the number of samples which usually fall into one of the two categories "adequate" or "very small" and to discount conclusions based upon the latter.

Some samples other than fish were brought back to the University of Washington and propared in the lab. It was found that when samples of calcium carbonate were treated in the manner outlined above the resulting sample was heavier and thicker than the original sample. An alternate method was developed whereby the material was ground with a postle in a mertar, a thin layer of the pulverized material spread over an $l\frac{1}{2}$ " plate and then the material covered with a thin plastic film (0.5% Formwar E in ethylone dichloride) so that it would adhere to the plate. Then, when similar samples propared by the two methods were counted, the samples propared by the second method gave counts that were consistently higher, averaging 30-40% greater for the few samples tested. For the fish, this would indicate that some of the activity of the bone and possibly other tissues were lest during the heating and treatment and thus the estimates of activity here recorded would be ainimum values.

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Sumary

Collections of fish were made at eleven stations distributed throughout the atell. The collections were principally of reef fishes tut were supplemented by some hook and line caught fishes. One hundred eighty-seven fish were used to provide tissue samples from which 1152 preparations and counts wore made. Activity by areas (Figure 2) was slightly less for the most western part of the atoll but no pattorn was evident otherwise. By species the activity expressed as millimicrocuries por kilogram of fish ranged from 9.6 to 0 (avorago, 5.2) in the following order; lizard, wrasse, half-beak, siganid, barracuda, dansel, parrot, cardinal, blonny, surgoon, snappor, goat fish, grouper, jack, eel, variola, romora, tuna, squirrol, mackoral, pig fish, rainbow runnor, puffor, mullet and shark (Figure 3). For those underlined there were 5 to 16 samples. The average value for the activity of tissues from all species from all areas expressed as millinicrocuries per kilogram of wet tissue (Figure 4) ranged from 22.7 to 3.0 in the following order; spleen, liver, kidnoy, gut, skin, bone, gills, nusclo and ovary.

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Fort 3. Radioactive materials accumulated by the algae of the lagoon and the inner and outer reef areas.

In the foregoing discussion dealing with the activity in fish, the sections pertaining to collecting areas, sample preparation, counting procedure, correction in counts, calculations and error are also relative to the data on algae discussed in Part 3.

Collecting areas

Somples were collected from the shallow water areas on both the lagoon and ocean side of the atoll, in the same general areas as the fish collections but over a greater range. In deeper water, collections were obtained by dredging and from growths of algae on floats of one kind or another. These samples were gathered in two general locations, near the reef, in which case they were assigned to the nearest reef station, or in the target area. UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

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Groups and number sampled

An effort was made to collect the same genus in all areas for commarative purposes. However, only three general were collected at every one of the ten reef collecting stations. Twenty-four general plus three more general groups were collected in all and, from these representative groups, 206 samples were asked and radiation activity counted. The samples were weighed wet, that is, the sample was removed from a bucket of salt water, drained but not dried, then weighed. The samples were counted the last week in September, 1948. As with the fish samples, recounts were made of those samples with net counts of 0 to 4 and the date of the two counts averaged.

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Analysis of data

The activity was calculated as millimicrocuries per kilogram of wet tissue. After determining activity, the data were analyzed both as to activity by area and by generic group.

Results

Activity by groups is tabulated in Table III and by areas in Figure 6. Since the activity of target area samples was significantly greater than those from the reef, the tabulation by groups is separated into those two categories. By groups the average activity from all stations exclusive of the target area was 17.3 millimic rocuries per kilogram of wet tiesue and ranged from 0 to 102. For the target area, the average of all groups was 193 and the range 27 to 618. For the reef stations the average value for all groups combined ranged from 6.7 to 24.2 with the areas in the western part of the stall yielding the lowest values. The highest single value for the reef stations was 182 and for the target area 1009 millimic rocuries per kilogram of wet tissue.

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Table III

Average Bota-Gramma Counts of Algae by Graas Expressed as Millimicr curies for Kilogram of Wet Tissue

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	Real St-	ntions	Target Area			
Group	No. of Sumples	۸ve.	No. of Samples	Ave.		
- Premerpha		102				
Fin algae	1	63	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
lityurus	1	50				
inia	2	50				
::fithsi?	1	50				
<u>erdictyon ekomurai</u> Setchell	3 ·	32	****			
green algae	9	32	4	103		
mbya	1	30				
<u>kicilia</u>	8	28				
<u>Cothrix</u>	1	26	·			
<u>4.130m</u>	44	26				
<u>crekiella</u>	10	23				
<u>icarpus</u>	8	20				
<u>rrenci 2</u>	5	19				
<u>Strysphaerin covernosn</u> (Forsak.) Borgesen	12	18				
Iridia filomentra (Wulfen) Horvey	4	17	2	24		
<u>inten</u>	18	16				
<u>"lerra urvilliana</u> (Mont.) Weber van Basse	15	10				
<u>Limeda</u>	22	7	2	400		
rerusting coralline	6	7				
Arbinaria arnata J. Ag.	4	6				
listenta	2	6	1	27		
<u>celorio</u>	1	5				
: <u>relithon</u>	1	5	·			
Lerpa racemosa (Forsak.) J. Ag.	8	4				
<u>ith phyllum</u>	3	1				
ni algae	1	0				
ting commensioni Bory	0		1			
"ilimeda sand"	0		2	618		
Total. all species	152	17	15	193		

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Part 4. Radioactive materials contained in selected samples of invertebrate organisms.

Collecting methods and areas

The bulk of the invertebrate collections were gathered in the shallow water near the reef in the vicinity of the fish collecting stations. Off the reef collections of invertebrates were of those found growing on the buoys in the target area and on the floats that were made and anchored in the lagoon during July, 1948.

Many groups of invertebrates were sampled with some of the smaller groups being combined into the more general groups shown in Table IV. A total of 389 samples were prepared and the radiation counted September 29 to October 5, 1948. If there was more than one tissue from a single specimen, the average of all tissues, without weighting, was the value used to calculate average count by group or by area.

Sample preparation, counting procedure, correction in counts and calculations were the same as similar procedures discussed in Part 2.

Results

The average count by areas of all groups combined is shown is the histogram of Figure 7. Again the target area collections were higher being estimated at 245 millimic ocuries per kilogram of organism as compared to the range of average values of 5 to 28 m/uc/kg. for the reef stations about the periphery of the atoll. The average count by groups is divided into the collections from the target area and those from the reef. For the reef these values range from 0 to 67 and average 19.0 m/uc/kg. For the target area the range was 0 to 1950. UNIVERSITY As 20465 UNIV. OF WASH, LIBRARIES 34

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Tablo IV.	Avorago	Bota-Garma	Counts	of	Invortobratos

by Groups Expressed as Millinicrocuries per Kilogram

of	Samplo	•
		-

	Avorago - all aroas loss target	Avorago - targot
anenome	0	-
barnacle	9	5
brittle star	8	18
clams	15	-
cone shell	3	-
coral	8	85
crustacoa	10	28
hydroids	33	74
octopus	67	•
oystor	18	66
miscellaneous worms	5	105
sand dollar	31	-
scallops	9	-
sea cucumber	8	110
sea slug	22	• -
shrimp	29	8
snail	19	-
sponge	57	741
tunicates	21	24
urchins	9	1950

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Of special interest are the counts of specimens taken from floats that had been in the lagoon for only 14 days. On July 5, twolve home-made floats of approximately 8 square foot and made of scrap lumber mostly 2 x 4 and 1 x 4 were anchored in the lagoon in and near the target area. This collection was designed to follow up a similar collection of last year (see Report No. UWFL-11*).

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On July 19, the floats were lifted and samples removed. Because of the short period growth was not great but some hydroids and barnacles were present. The hydroid samples also included algae which was difficult to separate from the hydroids. The counts are tabulated in Table V and it is interesting to note that two years after the blast the hydroid samples (including both hydroids and algae) were able to obtain in 2 weeks or less measurable amounts of radioactive materials. The average value of the hydroid samples from the fleats was 62 millimicrocuries per kilogram of wet tissue.

* Donaldson, Lauren R., Allyn H. Seymour, Arthur D. Welandor and Kolshaw Bonhan. "Concontration of Active Materials by Hydroids in the Bikini Lagoon during the Surmer of 1947". Applied Fisherics Laboratory, University of Washington, Scattle.

Table V. Bota-Gamma Activity Expressed as Millimicrocuries per Kilogram of Organisms that grow on Floats in Bikini Lagoon from July 5 - 19, 1948.

Area		Hydroid	Barnacle	Tunicato
2605		5,24	31	
2604	Bikini, S. end	101, 23, 3 ¹ 4	31	
2603	Bikini-Bokon	57,62	0.	
2602	Bokon-Yoran	42	11	
2698	Rokar	73	0	
2300	Noar target arca	189	0.	0
2203	Target area	74	10,6	
2102	Targot area		7	
2103	Target area	70	0	
2005	Near target area		6	
	Total	75 ⁴	102	0
	n	12	11	l
	Average	62.8	9.3	0

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Part 5. Bikini plankton and the part it plays in the distribution of radiation around the lagoon.

Plankton tows, as time permitted, were made in the lagoon. Two types of nots were used, a standard one-meter Michael Sar not constructed of #14 and #24 xxx silk grit gauze and a smaller 12" marine type towing not constructed of silk of either 38 or 125 meshes per inch. Location of Hauls was either Bikini Island anchorage or the target area. From 30 tows, 31 samples were propared in the field and were counted at the laboratory on August 5 and 6, 1948.

The bota-gamma counts for all samples expressed as millimicrocuries per kilogram of wet sample are presented in Table VI. The higher values for the target area were due in part to the algae taken in the overnight sets. For these sets, two small nots were used with a glass ball tied to the net ring and the towing rope then tied to a buoy. Chafing of the rope scraped some of the algae off the buoy and the algae drifted into the net.

The average value of all hauls for both areas was 44 n/uc/kg. The limited data does not warrant further analysis but it is significant to note that the counts of samples from the tows of the fine meshed net are generally higher. Thus suggesting that the microplankton may be more radioactive than the macroplankton.

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Table VI. Average Beta-Garma Counts of Plankton

Expressed as Millimicrocuries per Kilogram of

Wet Tissue from 1948 Bikini Collection

Area	Anchorage			Target_area			
Type of Net	l m. net	small ne	fine	lm. net	small coars	<u>net</u> se fine	•'
Date	1		• • • •				· · · ·
7/5	48		49) 			
7/6	6,12	13	15	i			!
3 PM 7/16	1	25	3				:
10 PM 7/16	16	24	68				
3 PM 7/17	1 4 1			8	90	39	
10 PM 7/17	2		6	•			•
7/17-7/18 ^a	1					116, 99	
9 AM 7/18	•			18		112	•
10 PM 7/18	4		21	-			• •
7/18-7/19 ^a	:		1			174,453	,
3 PM 7/19	• •			29,59		8 8	1 1
10 PM 7/19	1		14	6 			•
				, ,			
Total	81	62	176	70	90	661	: 1140
Average	12	21	25	23	90	132	44

a. net buoyed out overnight and tied to float; considerable algae from float.

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Part 6. Bikini atoll land survey with counts of the activity found on the land areas.

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The collection of marine plants and animals including plankton was supplemented by occasional collections of terrestial plants and animals and by regular surveys of the activity of the beach, land and vegetation. The usual procedure was to take one or two survey meters on each trip into the field and to make a survey of the land area within the vicinity of the station selected to collect marine plants and animals.

The instruments used were the Victoreen, Model 263 A, betagamma survey noters. Readings were made both with and without the shield and unless indicated the readings given below are those without the shield. The noter readings translated to counts per minute as determined by a radium standard, ranged from 20 for a "one" reading on the low scale to 124,000 for a "twenty" reading on the high scale for one instrument and 35 and 89,000 respectively for the other. The instruments were calibrated at Hanford previous to departure from Seattle and were again calibrated in the field. Since the tube was somewhat light sensitive the low meter readings, i.e., up to perhaps 3 or 4 on the low scale (approximately 100 c/m) are especially unreliable.

Lioutenants Schnidt and Bishop and Seaman Smith of the U.S. Navy also natorially assisted in these surveys.

Bikini Island

July 4, Aroa 2307, NW tip of Island: The beach had low activity generally but the coral ranged from 0-12,000 c/n, the high counts being

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from coral coated with an oil scum. An iron float counted 2500 per binute.

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July 10, from NW tip of Bikini Island, southeastward on the lagoon side for about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the 1946 C.P.O. landing was explored. This area was carefully surveyed by two teams, one working along the beach and the second on the island proper from high tide line inland for about 50 yards. The Bikini Island survey was the most exhaustive of the land surveys.

The highest reading found by the beach crew was equivalent to about 3000 c/m shield open and 185 c/m shield closed, suggesting that a considerable part of the radiation registered by the instrument was beta. One object investigated in this area was a life raft that had drifted onto the beach undoubtedly from a target ship. Objects that had floated onto the beach had higher counts than the beach, i.e., higher than the coral sand and coral rock. Such things as a navigation tarker, a raft, ponteens, bexes, tar on rock, beats, canvas, beards, spenge, cloth, rope, rust, were surveyed and gave twenty-three readings equivalent to an average of about 300 c/m shield open and 50 c/m shield closed. Eleven counts of sand and rock averaged 100 per minute, shield open, and 25 per minute (same as background), shield closed. In general the counts at the NW tip of the island were slightly higher than clasewhere on the island.

Survey of the Island proper yielded characteristic results. Soil readings were approximately the same as background, but those of the green vogetation were somewhat greater than background and those of the dead vogetation were still slightly higher. Figure 8, shows a view of vogetation on Bikini Island. Twenty-three counts were made of green INTY. OF White vogetation and included such items as grass; miscellaneous feliage;



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palm trunk, fronds and roots; pandanus leaves and trunk; and papaya tree, fruit and foliage. The average for these counts was about 80 per minute or approximately twice background and ranged from background up to about 200 c/m. Dead vegetation surveyed included grass, miscellaneous leaves, palm stump, palm fronds, coconut and pandanus stump. Fifteen counts of these items averaged about 150 per minute, about twice the green vegetation count and four times background, and ranged from 75 to 200 per minute. Miscellaneous objects such as a box. convas cot, paper carton, rope, boards, battery case, cloth, gas cans, tent, chair, table, building, concrete water basin, cork, truck, tire and a derrick were surveyed and of 36 counts the average value was about 125 c/m with a range from background to 275. There was no noticeable change in radiation from the starting point to the end of the survey.

Rokar Island

July 6 - Background count only along the waters edge. Readings increased up to 22 times background from waters edge up to the vegetation line. Figure 9 shows a section of the shore line. Some drift objects on bench had more activity than the general area.

Amen Island

July 7 - The southeast end of the island was surveyed on the lagoon and ocean side by two parties. Readings translated to counts per minute are as follows:

lagoon side - beach (coral, sand and rock) at low tide line was background but driftwood on the high tide line counted as high as

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Figure 9. Rokar Island, on the eastern rim of the atoll and upwind from the blasts. The counts of the white coral sand along the beach were at background but increased to two and one-half times background at the vegetation line.

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20,000 shield open and 1,000 shield closed. Iron objects and canvas up to 350.

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ocean side - coral, sand and rock was background but a life raft that had drifted ashore was 46,000 shield open and 2,200 shield closed. Iron objects up to 5,000.

island proper - dead leaves on lagoon side averaged 300 but ranged up to 500: green leaves, 100.

Envu Island

July 8 - the island was surveyed for about a mile on the lagoon side and 300 yards on the ocean side of the NW end.

Readings translated to counts per minute were as follows:

lagoon side - beach, i.e., cornl sand and rock, background but drift including canvas, rope, boards, tire, water bag and wooden grill work ranged from 150 to 21,000. One spot of drift wood was 21,000 open, 900 closed, and the wooden grill work was 6,500 open and 350 closed. A survey was made of the LCT 816, a target ship, that was beached in this area. Following are the counts per minute for the LCT 816 (Figure 10), with values for shield open given first followed by those for shield closed: ramp 3,700, 190; table 425; rope 19,000, 1,100; canvas 4,900, 370: starboard living quarters 1,500: immediately outside 5,600; (Figure 11); rope 23,000; canvas on gun mount 37,000, 1,500: paint on gun tub 5,600; gloves 32,000; following items from pilot house -- book 700; canvas 8,800; iron 4,900: background 600: door mat 60,000.

ocean side - beach, background only; life raft 46,000 open, 2,200 closed.

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Figure 10. Beached LCT-816 on Enyu Island. The entire ship was contaminated with active materials.

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Figure 11. Deck area of the LCT-816 with survey crew making readings. The starboard living quarters, left, produced activity counts of 1500 per minute; canvas on gun mount, center, 37,000; paint on gun tub 5,600; mat at door to pilot house, 60,000; etc.

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island proper - sand, background; green vegetation 250; dead vegetation, 400.

Uku Island

July 9 - two groups, circled island.

lagoon side - beach, slightly above background; drift (metal screen, old boards, sponge, rubber, canvas, <u>Tridachna</u> shell) average 250 c/m with range 0-700; tar on cans 1,500; boat GS53-tank, 125; tar on tank, 125; canvas, background; metal, background; landing craft west of Uku - paint, engine, battery table, canvas, cable, rope and tire fender background to 100 c/m.

ocean side - beach, approximately background; 4 blackened boxes ranged from 370-7,900 c/m; same boxes shield closed, up to 7,100 c/m.

island proper - sand, twice background; green vegetation (12 counts) averaged 100; dead vegetation, 200.

Arji Island

July 12 - surveyed about one half mile on both lagoon and ocean side at east end of island.

lagoon side - beach, slightly above background; drift (sponge, board, log, float, wood, PA45-6 hull, rope, iron, boar fender, life raft, paravane, cloth, life jacket, buoy, canvas, cask and floats) averaged about 175 c/m open and 10 c/m closed. A cloor mat counted 2000 mer

and 3,200 closed.

ocean side - beach approximately background; miscellaneous (mattress, box and plywood) average 100 c/m open and approximately background closed.

island proper - green vegetation, 75 open and 40 closed; dead vegetation 150 open and 50 closed.

Erik Island

July 13 - area monitored was about one mile on the western end, lagoon side and road, and the western tip both ocean and lagoon sides.

lagoon side - sand and coral 80 open. 45 closed; drift (driftwood, box, canvas, spool, life jacket, floats, sponge, rubber, cork, rope, oar) averaged about 100 c/m open and 40 c/m closed.

ocean side - beach, background only; drift (screen, b)ard, canvas, mess kit) averaged 125 open, 40 closed; one 6 x 6 timber covered with an oil scum or tar was roughly 60,000 open and 700 closed.

island proper - green vegetation approximately 120 open, 50 closed; dead vegetation, 225 open, 65 closed; sand 75, 20.

Boro Island

July 14 - a small island, circled while monitoring.

lagoon side - coral rock slightly above background; drift (paddle, sponge, rubber, box, mattress, rope, life jacket, raft - not covered with pil scum) averaged about 135 c/m open and 25 c/m closed. There was considerable drift covered with bil scum that counted about 4,000 c/m open and 200 c/m closed. One plywood trough counted about 23,000 open and 650 closed.

ocean side - sand, background; drift (concrete, bamboo, board, canvas, rubber, sponge) averaged 175 c/m open, 35 c/m closed. tradition of the second

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island proper - green vegetation any pentic 25 closed; dead UNIV. OF WASH. LIBRAR.29 LATT. CE TT vegetation, 500 open, 100 closed.

Namu Island

July 15 - surveyed western end of island on both lagoon and ocean sides.

lagoon side - sand, background; oil scum on coral rock 500 ppen, 50 closed; drift coated with oil scum 2,800 (range 600-5,600 open, 150 (range 45-275) closed. Miscellaneous drift without oil scum (sponge, spool, box, float, life jacket, cloth, boiler) averaged 165 open, 50 closed.

becan side - beach, background; drift yielded approximately the same count for similar items as on lagoon side. An exception was a 4×8 timber (no oil) that counted 1,900 open, 200 closed.

island proper - green vegetation, 85 open, 25 closed; dead "egetation, 120 open, 40 closed.

In addition to making on the spot counts with a survey meter, land animals and plants and miscellaneous pieces of drift were collected for ashing and counting in the laboratory. The record of thirty-five such counts are presented in Table VII.

Summary of beach and land survey

A survey of beach and land activity was made of eight islands in Bikini Atoll with Victoreen, Model 263A, beta-gamma survey meters. The counts of coral sand and coral rock of the beaches and islands proper where approximately background. Drift on the beach on either lagoon or been side had varying amounts of activity from background up to 80,000 ofn. The high counts were either of items from target vessels or of items coated with an oil scum also probably of target ship origination. Counts of beached target ships are given. The count of green vegetation was approximately two to three times background and that of the dead vegetation two to three times that of the green vegetation. The approximate average the private the start of the green vegetation.

•• •• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Bikini	Amen	Rokar	Erik	Average
coconut	3, 3, 2, 0, 7, 3, 5		•	ļ 1	3
pandanus	2, 2		1	!	2
papaya	5		• •	i	5
misc. fruit	9,4				6
grass	228	40			134
misc. dried Vegetation	151, 95, 235, 68, 43, 64				109
birds	8, 1, 6		1 	4	5
cat	3, 0		1 1		2
caterpillars	2		L		2
zecko	29		**************************************		29
noth	7		i • { h	,	7
bracket fungus	24			. <u></u>	24
canvas	1	174.7644			3909
rope	•	2066	i 	، معارفة المع	2066
tarred block			61	1	61
cockroach	2.)			1	20

Table VII. Beta-Gamma Activity Expressed as Millimicrocuries per

Kilogram of Sample of Land Animals, Vegetation and Miscellaneous Drift Items.

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counts by islands of the green vegetation, the dead vegetation and the highest counts of drift objects are shown in Figure 12. Counts of similar items brought back to the laboratory for counting are tabulated in Table VII. An average value of the activity of drift objects is meaningless because of the wide range of counts and the arbitrary manner in which objects were selected for counting. There is no apparent geographical relation with activity. The relation of counts obtained when window was open to when window was closed was of the nature of 20 to 1 suggesting a high propertion of bota radiation.

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Counts Per Minute of Green Vegetation, of Dead Vegetation and of Most Active Drift Items by Areas as Translated from Readings of a Beta-Gamma Survey Meter



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Art 7. Evaluation of the 1948 field studies, with a statement on information needed for a better understanding of the biological problems of a contaminated area.

The twelve (12) men of the technical staff of the Bikini Radio-Mological Resurvey of 1948 were able to gather a vast amount of data iwing the eighteen (18) days they studies at Bikini. These data have rade it possible to evaluate the problem of radiation contamination in the faunal and floral systems of the area. They do not, however, provide the finality to many of the questions that is desired. This may, in part, be due to the sparcity of data, but surely the major problems, are those of complexity of the reactions and the necessity for a lapse of time during which the problem may evolve. As the years pass it will be possible to develop better understanding of the problems of contamination. The hazard to personal health will have passed but the basic problems will prevail.

Areas of Contamination

The target area continues to be the source of greatest concentration of active materials. Plants and sedentary animals collected in that area contained higher activity counts than more remote regions.

Scattered bits of wreckage and drift materials with contamination are found in all areas within the lagoon.

The north roof, between Bikini Island and Amen Island has the highest concentration of activity of any of the outer lagoon areas.

There is a continual transfer of active materials from the UNIVERSITY TOVES target area, upwind, to the eastern rim of the lagoon.

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Concentration of activity by biotic forms.

Algae, in general, tended to have a greater concentration of active materials two years after the blast than do other forms.

<u>Invertebrate</u> forms vary greatly in the amount of activity contained in representative forms collected from the eleven (11) major collecting regions about the atoll. The amount of active materials contained in the invertebrate forms was, in general, less than that contained in algae from the same collecting area.

Fishes from the eleven (11) collecting stations were less contaminated than the algae or invortebrates.

<u>Plankton</u>, especially the microplankton which contained more activity than the macroplankton, appears to be able to concentrate the trace amounts in the sea water into measurable amounts of activity in the organism.

Rapidly growing forms, such as hydroids on the floats, are able to absorb measurable amounts of activity in very short periods of time.

Spread of activity about the lagoon.

All the data assombled indicate that the spread of the activity from the target area to the more remote parts of the lagoon continues. The Mechanism by which the transfer takes place is not completely understood. The planktonic forms, especially the microplankton are assumed to be largely responsible. The officiency of the rotention of the transported activity is apparently extremely high when one considers the rate of decay of the active substances and the dilution of the waters within the lagoon. With a 28 day half for dilution the water has undergene UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES UNIV. OF WASH. LEGRARIES

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twenty-six (26) half exchange during the past two years.

"Bikini continues to be one of the most important <u>biological</u> experiments of our time."

Problems for future study.

1. Continued periodic checks of the amount, distribution and effect of the active material in Bikini Lagoon should be made.

2. Field studies should continue to explore the basic phenomenon of the mechanisms of translocation of the activity and its concentration in the faunal and floral systems.

3. Laboratory studies should be very carefully integrated with the field studies to provide specific information on parts of the general problem.

4. Future work should include food chain studies to parallel the activity studies.

5. Evaluation of the chemical components of the active materials is needed for an understanding of the selectivity evidenced by the various forms.

6. Tissue selectivity has been explored, emphasis should now be placed on the <u>effect</u> of contained activity upon the various forms.

7. There is need for a training program to expend our efforts to enlist and develop competent, understanding research workers for work in radiation and the problems it presents in biology.

8. Bikini Atoll should be retained and used as a field laboratory for the study of problems of radiation and biology.

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