

The only sounds recorded in this situation are very short clicks with a duration of 0.08 ms similar to those found by CHASE (1980). These broadband signals are of low intensity and consist of only 3–4 cycles (Figs. 1.1 and 1.2). Clicks predominantly occur in intervals of about 2, 25 and 52 ms thereby creating the impression that they are grouped in double pulses of 2 ms intervals which have a basic period of about 27 ms. Sometimes one pair of clicks is missing thus creating an interval of about 52 ms between two paired clicks (Figs. 1.3 and 1.4). Within a period of 2.56 seconds 183 clicks were recorded. That is an average of 70 clicks per second. These clicks were compared to those found by CHASE (1980) when blind, water-deprived rats discriminated the open channel of an elevated Y-maze from the closed one. In this situation the rats emitted signals consisting of 4–8 cycles appearing in trains of sometimes 30 clicks or more. The occurrence of double pulses similar to paired clicks of other echolocaters (HENSON and SCHNITZLER 1980) was also reported. The emission of these signals was recorded predominantly when the tested animal succeeded in searching for water without error. CHASE (1980) suggested that the signals described above are “used by the rat as part of an active echolocation system”.

There is an evident similarity between the signals recorded by CHASE and those found in our experiments. This similarity and the fact that these signals were produced in a situation when the animal explored an unknown area below the platform confirms again the hypothesis – first set up by ROSENZWEIG et al. (1955) – that rats may use these sounds for echolocation.

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*Authors' address:* MARIA-TH. KALTWASSER and Prof. Dr. H. U. SCHNITZLER, Universität Tübingen, Lehrstuhl Zoophysiologie, Institut für Biologie III, Auf der Morgenstelle 28, D-7400 Tübingen 1

## Listeriosis killing wood lemmings, *Myopus schisticolor* Lilljeborg

By U. SKARÉN

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In autumn 1980 wood lemmings (*Myopus schisticolor*) were housed in an enclosure of about 8 m<sup>2</sup> in Sonkajärvi, Central Finland. In late October some animals appeared to be ill moving unsteady the eyes glimmering deep in the rumped fur. So all 19 lemmings were taken into room temperature.

However, over 50 % of the animals died within two weeks. When one still healthy looking individual was put into another cage, the disease spread there, too. By early December only two animals of the original 19 lemmings were left. Next spring one of these was successfully delivered of two litters.

By autopsy white nests of bacteria could be seen on the liver and on the partly bloody and with gas filled intestines. M. VALTONEN (in litt.) found *Listeria monocytogenes* as the final cause of death. Listeriosis has been reported to kill captive *Lemmus sibiricus*, but it did not infect *Dicrostonyx torquatus* in direct contact (PLUMMER and BYRNE 1950; MANNING 1954).

About 10 serious human listeriosis cases are found in Finland yearly. Often this results to abortion (MÄKELÄ et al. 1975). In 1958–1974 altogether 110 cases of human listeriosis were diagnosed in Sweden, especially in pregnant women and neonates. Meningoencephalitis lead to death in 20 patients out of 64. But only 10 % of the patients seemed to have been in contact with animals (LARSSON 1979).

#### References

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 MÄKELÄ, O.; MÄKELÄ, P. H.; WAGER, O.; VAHERI, A. (1975): Lääketieteellinen mikrobiologia. Vammala. 743 pp.  
 PLUMMER, P. J. G.; BYRNE, J. L. (1950): *Listeria monocytogenes* in lemming. *Can. J. Comp. Med. and Vet. Sci.* 14, 214–217 (Ref. MANNING 1954).

*Author's address:* Dr. UOLEVI SKARÉN, SU-74300 Santkajärvi, Finland

## BEKANNTMACHUNG

**Protokoll über die Mitgliederversammlung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Säugetierkunde e. V. am 8. September 1981 im großen Hörsaal des Zoologischen Instituts der Universität, Im Neuenheimer Feld 230, in Heidelberg**

Der 1. Vorsitzende, Herr RÖHRS, eröffnet die Versammlung um 17.00 Uhr.

1. Die Tagesordnung wird angenommen. Punkt 6 soll aber nach Punkt 9 behandelt werden.
2. Herr KUHN verliest den Bericht über das abgelaufene Geschäftsjahr 1980:  
 Im Berichtsjahr erschien der 45. Band der „Zeitschrift für Säugetierkunde“ in 6 Heften mit zusammen 384 Seiten. Neu aufgenommen wurden seit der letztjährigen Tagung 28 Mitglieder. Ihren Austritt zum Jahresende 1980 erklärten 8 Mitglieder. Durch den Tod verlor die Gesellschaft 4 Mitglieder: das Mitglied ihres Vorstandes Prof. Dr. THEODOR HALTENORTH, ihr Ehrenmitglied seit 1968 Prof. Dr. KONRAD HERTER, Prof. Dr. Dr. ALBERT KEIL und CHARLOTTE POHLE.  
 Damit hat die Gesellschaft gegenwärtig 712 Mitglieder, davon 181 im Ausland und 58 in der DDR.

Auf Einladung der Kollegen am Lehrstuhl Zoophysiologie und an der Abteilung Physiologische Ökologie der Universität Tübingen fand die 54. Hauptversammlung der Gesellschaft vom 22. bis 26. September 1980 in Tübingen statt. 125 Mitglieder und Gäste versammelten sich zu 35 Vorträgen und Filmen. Ein gemeinsamer Besuch der Wilhelma in Stuttgart und eine ganztägige Exkursion auf die Schwäbische Alb beendeten die interessante Tagung.