

# DDT; the myths and the reality

By Cao on 12/15/2007

In 1970 the National Academy of Sciences, in their book *Life Sciences*, stated that, "In little more than two decades DDT has prevented 500 million deaths due to malaria."

But-a reporter asked Dr. Charles Wurster, one of the major opponents of DDT, whether a ban on DDT wouldn't actually result in far greater use of more toxic pesticides. Dr. Wurster is reported to have replied,

*"So what? People are the cause of all the problems. We have too many of them. We need to get rid of some of them and this is as good a way as any."*

When asked by the same reporter,

*"Doctor, how do you square the killing of people with the mere loss of some birds?"*

Dr. Wurster is reported to have replied,

*"It doesn't really make a lot of difference, because organophosphate acts locally and only kills farm workers and most of them are Mexicans and Negroes." <sup>1</sup>*

To population control advocates like *environmentalists*, preventing human death is **alarming**. Since preservation of human life is intolerable, they continue to campaign for ways to manage the nonexistent problem. One of these is to wage an ideological war to continue the ban and any further use of DDT, and to stress 'birth control' in third world countries over life-saving improvement in sanitation and water quality. Up until 1970 when DDT was banned for political reasons, all reliable scientific data had consistently demonstrated that DDT was safe for both humans and animals. <sup>2 3</sup>

In fact, it was dusted on American soldiers during WWII to prevent lice, mosquitos and fleas from infecting people with typhus, malaria and yellow fever. This campaign was so successful, that later, it was even dusted on civilians; and displaced persons after the liberation of Auschwitz, etc.. It was used in the Korean and Vietnam wars, until it was banned in 1972. <sup>4</sup>..Today it could not only be used in thirdworld countries against malaria, typhus and yellow fever, but it could be used in Iraq and Afghanistan against sandflies that carry sand fly fever and leishmaniasis.<sup>5 6</sup>

In [an article at Worldnet Daily](#), Jack Cashill recounts J. Gordon Edwards' experience with DDT when he was just 25 years old and stationed in Italy. <sup>7</sup>



U.S. Department of Agriculture

*In World War II, troops and refugees were dusted with DDT powder to kill the lice that carried typhus.*

*While on duty in Italy in 1944, he and the other soldiers in his company had been plagued by body lice. This lice was spreading typhus among the troops, a disease that had killed 3 million people in Europe during and after the previous war. To check the developing epidemic, the chemists at Merck & Company in New Jersey produced the first 500 pounds of American-made DDT, rushed it to the airport, and flew it to Italy.*

*There, Edwards got the order to dust every soldier in his company with the DDT powder. For two weeks straight, he did just that, breathing the fog of white dust as he did so. Much to everyone's relief, the DDT worked, and the epidemic was checked. The surgeon general estimated that the DDT had saved the lives of 5,000 soldiers. After the war, inspired by this experience, Edwards went on to get his Ph.D. in entomology from Ohio State University and eventually headed out to San Jose State University where he taught medical entomology courses for more than 30 years.*



*Entomologist J. Gordon Edwards, featured in Esquire magazine for September 1971, eating a tablespoon of DDT, a feat he repeated almost every week in his public campaign to show the safety of DDT. Now in his 80s and an avid mountain climber, Edwards is still campaigning for DDT.*

edwards not only went on to get his ph.d in entomology after his experience in Italy, but became a well-known mountain climber and author of the 1991 bible for climbers, entitled “a climber’s guide to glacier national park”. He died in 2004, at the ripe old age of 84 of a heart attack, while climbing with his wife.

This should come as a surprise, because if the claims about cancer and DDT were true, he surely would have succumbed to cancer. Rachel Carson, however, was diagnosed with breast cancer while she was preparing her “Silent Spring” manuscript.<sup>8</sup> And there are numerous studies that verify that DDT doesn’t cause cancer.<sup>9 10</sup>

Edwards was pictured on the cover of Esquire in 1971, eating DDT. Edwards was so convinced of the safety of DDT, he took to eating a spoonful of it in front of his classes and never experienced the traumatic effects Carson’s book warned about. Until his death, Edwards advocated the use of DDT to save third world countries from the devastating effects of malaria and diseases like typhus and West Nile Virus. Steve Milloy worked with Edwards on ‘100 things you should know about DDT’ posted on Junkscience.com,<sup>11</sup> and Milloy wrote an article at Frontpage Magazine saying that Edwards had just begun to see a turnaround, but it is up to us to carry on his work.<sup>12</sup>



FIGURE 37.—Medical Section personnel of the Mediterranean Base Section in Algiers treat Arab children with new insecticide powder designed to kill typhus lice.

Indeed, DDT was the safest pesticide ever known to mankind. Furthermore, it was inexpensive and could be widely used in third-world countries to control the spread of insect-borne diseases.

In 1959, unprotected workmen applied 60,000 tons of DDT to the inside walls of 100 million houses. Neither the 130,000 workmen or the 535 million people living in the sprayed houses experienced any adverse effects. <sup>13</sup>



Yet despite all the evidence that DDT was beneficial, population control adherents set out to have DDT banned in the name of “saving the environment”.



Flight attendant sprays DDT in an airplane cabin. Source: <http://kefir.net/spray/buzzwormairspray.htm>; accessed July 30, 2006.

Surely we would have heard about all the people succumbing to cancer and nervous system-type illnesses if the allegations made in Carson's book were true. They not only crop dusted with DDT, but they sprayed it inside airline cabins, exposing all of the passengers.



Indeed, it was openly sprayed around playing children.

Carson's complaints involved contrived stories declaring DDT the cause of softening of eggshells, which turned out to be the result of controlled studies withdrawing much-needed calcium from bird diets. And fictitious stories about DDT interfering with the balance of nature and decreasing bird populations despite the Audobon Society's Christmas birdcounts and other counts which showed bird populations on the rise during the periods of heavy DDT use. <sup>14 15 16 17</sup> All of this, in addition to alleging DDT would endanger humanity through the food chain. In truth, all of those stories were fabricated and part of a carefully-coordinated program to block further use of the lifesaving pesticide. <sup>18</sup>

William Ruckelshaus, longtime member of the Environmental Defense Fund and Director of the EPA, outlawed further use of DDT in 1972 despite the recommendation of the EPA Chairman Investigating Committee, which had heard six months of testimony on the use of the pesticide, and determined that DDT was completely safe. When Ruckelshaus outlawed further use of DDT, he signed the death warrant



for hundreds of millions of helpless human beings living in third-world countries. He admitted later it was 'political'.

If the National Academy of Sciences was correct in its 1970 assessment, we have probably lost over 600 million human lives during the past twenty-five years since advocates of population control succeeded in outlawing DDT.<sup>19</sup>

The religion of environmentalism consists of attacking its opponents through verbal assault and character assassination. "Infidels" to environmentalists are 'deniers' – and environmentalists' nonsensical arguments sustain a campaign to deny the deniers any platform for their views. Part of the rhetoric used is dismissing the source, claiming citations are to 'all the tobacco lobbyist crazies' and the "Lyndon LaRouche crazies". Yet, I have not seen one shred of evidence that shows that the information at [Rachel was Wrong](#) and National Geographic and other reputable sources is contrary to the scientific evidence which easily refute Carson's claims. It was demonstrated during WWII and beyond-that DDT was safe and saved lives. In fact, in 1948, Paul Herman Müller was given The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1948 "for his discovery of the high efficiency of DDT as a contact poison against several arthropods".<sup>20</sup>

Although since we don't manufacture DDT in the U.S. anymore, I am hesitant to posit that notion that China or India will be able to furnish a suitable replacement, since copying patented drugs after 1995 is prohibited without a license.

As we've seen in the past, the WHO supports the purchase of knockoff foreign substitutes of life-saving medications, which has two terrible consequences. First, they are 'knockoffs' that don't have the same effect, and secondly, it doesn't motivate pharmaceutical companies to invest in R&D to create new lifesaving cures. Since the United States is the only country that produces new drugs, that is a frightening prospect for the future. The world relies on the U.S., the only economy that resembles a free market left in the world, yet environmentalists are working to change it.

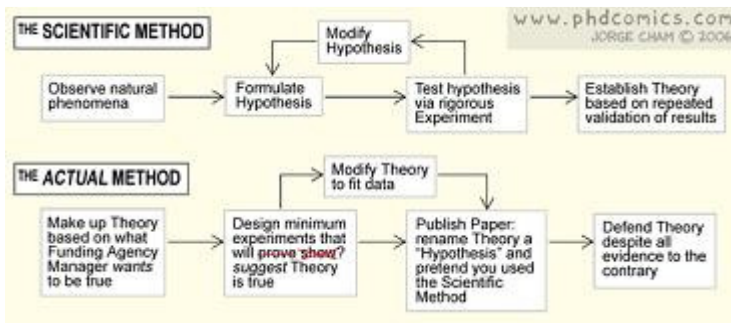
It fits in with the international environmental socialists' agenda; [from a socialist party website](#):<sup>21</sup>

*Our chants called for the nationalisation of big business and public services and for fundamental change in how society is run to address the risk posed to the planet.*

Risks that are...nonexistent, like the mythical population explosion.<sup>22</sup>

Each and every person; whether major or minor commentator or blogger, who manifests disbelief in the global warming religion can expect to become a target of abuse from self-appointed protectors of unhinged environmental screeds.

This is diametrically opposed to the real scientific method. Because if a person really believes in science, he's not going to base his opinions on rhetorical arguments based on personal attacks of an opponent; he's going to review the facts and data and use critical thinking skills. Posit a hypothesis, and test to see if it's true.



Source

Which doesn't happen with environmentalists who kneel before the gods of global warming, etc., as you can see above. Ph.D.'s poke fun about this, but this approach has already reaped dreadful consequences.

If their arguments were based on science, they would be able to engage in a reasonable debate on the subject without calling people names, and while citing source material that doesn't go to unhinged places like COUNTERPUNCH.

Update [here](#). I'm now being threatened with a lawsuit by a man in a bathtub for two points in this post.

1. Reported by Chairman John Rarick: House Hearings on the Federal Pesticide Control Act of 1971, pp. 266-267, in Serial No 92-A, quoted in a treatise by Dr. J. Gordon Edwards.  
[back]
2. Dr. Stan Monteith, M.D., (October, 1997) [Beyond Birth Control: The Population Control Agenda \(Pt 1\)](#), koinonia house online.[back]
3. Dr. Stan Monteith, M.D., (October, 1997) [Beyond Birth Control: The Population Control Agenda \(Pt 2\)](#), koinonia house online.[back]
4. [Silent Spring and the Story of DDT. Making the Modern World](#)[back]
5. Dougherty, K. (May 23, 2005) [In Hawijah, the sand flies, not insurgents, strike fear](#). Stars and Stripes. Mideast Edition.  
[back]
6. Marjorie Mazel Hecht (June 18, 2004) [In Africa, DDT Makes A Comeback to Save Lives](#). EIR-Executive Intelligence Review, June 18, 2004 Edition[back]
7. Cashill, J. (June 30, 2005) [DDT-eating scientist exposes eco-fraud](#). WorldNetDaily[back]
8. Dunn, J.R., (May 25, 2007) [Rachel Carson and the Deaths of Millions](#), American Thinker.[back]
9. Feeding primates more than 33,000 times the average daily human exposure to DDT (as estimated in 1969 and 1972) was "inconclusive with respect to a carcinogenic effect of DDT in nonhuman primates."-J Cancer Res Clin Oncol 1999;125(3-4):219-25[back]
10. "... weakly estrogenic organochlorine compounds such as PCBs, DDT, and DDE are not a cause of breast cancer."  
[Xenoestrogens and Breast Cancer](#), New England Journal of Medicine[back]
11. Edwards & Milloy, [100 Things you should know about DDT](#). Junkscience.com[back]
12. Milloy, S. (August 14, 2004) [Leading DDT Pesticide Advocate Dies](#). Frontpage Magazine[back]
13. Cashill, J. (June 30, 2005) [DDT-eating scientist exposes eco-fraud](#). WorldNetDaily[back]
14. declines in bird populations either had occurred before DDT was present or had occurred years after DDT's use. A comparison of the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Counts between 1941 (pre-DDT) and 1960 (after DDT's use had waned) reveals that at least 26 different kinds of birds became more numerous during those decades, the period of greatest DDT usage. The Audubon counts document an overall increase in birds seen per observer from 1941 to 1960, and statistical analyses of the Audubon data confirm the perceived increases. For example, only 197 bald eagles were documented in 1941 The 42nd Annual Christmas Bird Census. Audubon Magazine. 1942; 44:1-75.—the number had increased to 891 in 1960. The 61st Annual Christmas Bird Census. Audubon Field Notes. 1961; 15(2): 84-300.[back]
15. At Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania, teams of ornithologists made daily counts of migrating raptors for over 40 years. The counts—published annually by the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association—reveal great increases in most kinds of hawks during the DDT years. The osprey counts increased as follows: in 1946, 191; in 1956, 288; in 1967, 457; and in 1972, 630. Taylor JW. Summaries of Hawk Mountain migration of raptors, 1934 to 1970. Hawk Mtn Assn Newsletter. 1970; 42.[back]
16. In 1942 Dr. Joseph Hickey—who in 1968 would blame DDT for bird population decline—reported that 70 per-cent of the eastern osprey population had been killed by pole traps around fish hatcheries. Hickey JJ. Guide to Bird Watching. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press; 1943.[back]
17. In 1958, *the year before DDT came into use*, Hickey noted a decline in the population of peregrine falcons. Hickey JJ. Only 170 pairs of peregrines in eastern U.S. in 1940, before DDT. Auk. 1942; 59:176.[back]
18. (June, 1998) [Facts Versus Fears: DDT](#). Extract from the American Council on Science and Health publication, Edition 3, June, 1998.[back]
19. Environmental Overkill, op cited: pp. 76-77 and 192[back]

20. [The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1948 Nobelprize.org](#)[back]
21. Nelson, Tom. (December 13, 2007) [Socialists march against climate change in London.](#)[back]
22. [Fertility Rates \(Children per family\), World Statistics.](#) Pregnant Pause[back]

*Posted in Environmentalism, General, moonbat hysteria, MSM and Propaganda*

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