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GSV-1294

NOTICE OF RESEARCH PROJECT

SUPPORTING AGENCY: NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
DIV. OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

AGENCY'S NUMBER: GA-27941

TITLE OF PROJECT:

EFFECTS OF CHLORINATED HYDROCARBONS ON REEF CORALS AND A CORAL PREDATOR

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR, ASSOCIATES AND DEPARTMENT/SPECIALTY:

LR MCCLOSKEY

RECIPIENT INSTITUTION:

WALLA WALLA COLLEGE
GRADUATE SCHOOL
COLLEGE PLACE, WASHINGTON 99324

PERIOD FOR THIS GRANT: 3/71 TO 3/72
FY71 FUNDS $20,050

SUMMARY OF PROJECT:

The investigations supported by this grant concern the physiological effects of certain chlorinated hydrocarbons (p, p'-DDT, Dieldrin and Aroclor 1254) on reef corals, and the transfer of these compounds to a primary coral predator "Acanthaster planci." The objectives of this research are: (1) to obtain data on present levels of chlorinated hydrocarbons in reef corals and in "Acanthaster"; (2) to document the physiological effects of each organochlorine and possible synergistic or additive effects if more than one organochlorine is present; and (3) to determine if the organochlorines are selectively accumulated by coral predators. The results of this research project will enable the investigator to determine whether alleged starfish epidemics now plaguing Pacific coral reefs are correlated with higher organochlorine levels.

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