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ABSTRACT

CEREBELLAR SYNDROME IN CIGUATERA

Notes on two cases

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At the Territorial Hospital in Papeete, the authors observed two cases of ciguatera presenting a new feature: to the usual clinical picture was added a total and severe bilateral cerebellar syndrome which developed slowly but favourably towards complete recovery without any after-effects.

The fish involved in each case belongs to the species Scarus microrrhinus Bleeker, its local name being "Uhu raepuu".

After describing the clinical symptoms, giving the results of the complementary tests that were carried out and outlining the treatment applied, the authors stress how difficult it is to diagnose a cerebellar syndrome which is not well-marked without a thorough neurological examination.

A parallel is then established with the symptoms observed in a series of cases of poisoning by Tridacna maxima on the island of Bora-Bora and it is emphasized that one of the toxic fishes was caught in the same "evil" area of this leeward island.

Finally, an attempt to elucidate the cause of the disease through a clinical approach is made in the light of present knowledge of the feeding habits of both Scarus microrrhinus and Tridacna maxima.
