

Crab Hole Mosquito Blues — The Song

[Announcer] This podcast is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC – safer, healthier people.

The Crab Hole Mosquito Blues, by the MARU Health Angels Band.

[Refrain] Mosquito's in his crab hole, bidin' his time,
Venezuela virus working up the line,
Boys in Beltsville heard the news,
Horses in Texas got the crab hole blues.

[Chorus] Down in Maracay back in '36,
Kubes and Rios found a virus doin' tricks,
Horses die, this one's gotta be,
New cause of 'cephalitis, V-E-E.

[Voice Over] Horses, mules, and donkeys are all susceptible.

[Chorus] The years roll by, the virus makes a score,
In Vene, Colombo, and Ecuador,
Comes rain to the desert instead of dew,
And, V-E-E burns the coast of Peru.
In Trinidad, Panama, they say "Hey, Hey,"
We got this creature like every day,
His swampy home, you can always tell,
By finding some rats and the *Culex (Mel)*."

[Voice Over] Mosquito, that is.

[Chorus] Back at MARU, raggin' the brains,
We found that the virus had different strains
Horses convulse with the southern kind,
Northern virus leaves them feelin' fine."

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[Chorus] 'Cause virus hits man by aerosol,
Could be used to cripple us all,
In Maryland, they grew it in vats,
Tested it out in monkeys and rats.

[Chorus] The other Team outside the fence,
Lookin' for the answer that made some sense,
Got a strain from an old donkey,
Made a vaccine, TC-83.

[Chorus] The offensive team tried to make some noise,
A cloud for the Commies, but not our boys,
Did not work, that is why,
Nixon said 'declassify'.

[Voice Over] The Pentagon papers, volume 25, page 324, 1970... the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, the Washington Post, and the Christian Science Monitor....

[Chorus] Sleepy defense gets a Latin call,
New outbreak and it ain't small,
Took the vaccine off the wall,
It really worked to save them all.

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[Gazoos playing tune]

[Chorus] Down in Guatemala, year of '69,
Horses started dying on the borderline,
Virus come down from Ecuador,
Nobody knows the reservoir.

[Voice Over] But Mackenzie has an idea.

[Chorus] Virus hopped the mountains, got to the sea,
Vaccine brought in and given out free,
Virus kept movin', had to go,
All the way from here to Mexico.

[Chorus] Most everybody said, "Gotta stop that bug,
Gotta use the vaccine 'cause there ain't no drug,"
Beltsville brethren said "Gotta wait,"
Afraid that the vaccine was MF-8.

[Voice Over] That means reversion to virulence.

[Chorus] Results today are plain to see,
Story's hot on the wires of Associated P,

A million horses all over the west,
Are living proof the vaccine was best.

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[Voice Over] Addresses for reprints may be mailed to Karl M. Johnson.

[Announcer] For the most accurate health information, visit www.cdc.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO, 24/7.