Mean litter size varied from 2.33 to 3.50 among the three colonies counted (Table 2). The largest litter observed was six. Other data on litter size for prairie dogs ranges from 4.1 in Colorado (Koford, 1958) to 5.0 in Kansas (Wade, 1928). These averages, however, were determined from embryo and corpora lutea counts and so are not directly comparable to the data in this study.

CONCLUSION

Since the black-tailed prairie dog is considered to be an endangered Canadian mammal (Novakowski, 1970), it is important that a more intensive study be carried out on the status and ecology of this species. It would appear from our results that there are even fewer prairie dogs existing in Canada than was previously supposed.

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SCORPIONS IN SASKATCHEWAN

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While scorpions are typically warm-climate animals, one small species, *Vejovis boreus* (Girard), extends north into western Canada. Gertsch and Soleglad (1966. The scorpions of the *Vejovis boreus* group in North America. Amer. Mus. Nov. 2278:1-54) recorded it from several localities in the prairie region of southern Alberta and in the lower Okanagan Valley of British Columbia. As habitats in southwestern Saskatchewan are very similar to those in southern Alberta, it seemed probable that *V. boreus* also occurred there and inquiries were made to those institutions likely to have material from the province and to a number of local naturalists.

No specimens were located but two sightings came to light. Harvey Beck (personal communication: 1970) told of seeing a scorpion near Minton, Saskatchewan in 1964. G. S. McLean of Eston, Saskatchewan, whom I contacted through the assistance of Ronald Hooper, reported (personal communication: 1970) the following incident which took place ¾ mile north of the Lancer Ferry on March 30, 1963. This incident is additionally interesting because it provides some information on the little known hibernation behaviour of the species:

> "My son and his chum were digging a cave in one of the high cliffs. The cliff was sloping ¾ of the way up so that they had a footing where they were digging. They had dug back about six feet and they asked me to help them. About the first shovel full I sliced off in the very fine sandy soil I severed a little tunnel about the size of my small finger. The next slice in, four little creatures about the size of cockroaches dropped out. They apparently were hibernating. Having visited in Africa and seen scorpions I immediately recognized what they were . . . "

The scorpions were given to the Biology Department of the University of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon where they seem to have been misplaced or lost. A search of the Department's invertebrate collection in 1970 failed to locate them.

Further reports are necessary to establish the distribution of *V. boreus* in Saskatchewan and the rest of western Canada. I would greatly appreciate receiving specimens or data.