

A Relative Term



The notion that earwigs burrow into the brains of humans through the ear and lay their eggs there had long been attributed to superstition. But then “Lucky” Ernest Pringler showed up at the Mayo Clinic one Saturday morning in June with a dazed look on his face. After a cursory examination, a team of creeped-out otorhinolaryngologists removed a female earwig from Ernest’s left ear and these 287 eggs from his right. Ernest remains dazed to this day, so I guess “lucky” is a relative term.