

From: Robert Trivers <[REDACTED]>

To: Jeffrey Epstein <jeevacation@gmail.com>, Gordon Getty <ggetty@ifalstaff.com>

Subject: Coroner's report and ant bites

Date: Wed, 23 Aug 2017 23:28:00 +0000

"The body and clothing show numerous red ants, and the body, especially the face, upper chest, arms, and scrotum show multiple abrasions consistent with ant bites."

This is how the Coroner explained away abrasions on all those areas, exactly the areas you would expect to be involved in hostile male—male interactions

here is what the world's authority on insect and ant bites said (sent today to me)

My comments are in blue.

It was a lynching. No doubt about it. If it were not considered a lynching, it would certainly be murder, not suicide.

a key piece of evidence is bruises on his face—they are exactly what you expect from being lynched but not suicide—who beats up their face before saying, what the hell, i will hang myself?

Ant stings to a corpse would not cause any type of bruising. Bruising in the human body is caused by the body's reaction to the venom of the ant sting and, in this case, a dead body cannot have a reaction immunologically based. So that pretty much rules out bruises from stinging ants. Incidentally the only stinging ants in the area would of merit are Pogonomyrmex badius, the Florida harvester ant, and they don't climb above ground, they stay on the surface the ground where they collect seeds. Even if, by some wild imagination, a person was stung by ants, in this case the harvester ants, they still would not have bruises. I've spent much of my life studying these ants and, yes, they hurt and, yes, they can cause slight swelling, but never bruising.

so the coroner explains it away by saying bites from the red ant on the corpse caused the bruises—evidence being a few ants seen running around

Ant bites would be so superficial that, at most, they could only scratch the surface and would not cause any deep bruising affect. The harvester ants in the area do not tend to bite, they sting, and the carpenter ants in the area, which do bite, would again only make a superficial, if even visible, mark on the skin.

so you tell me

do ants bite corpses

It is hard to imagine ants biting a corpse. Mammalian skin, including ours, is much too tough for ant mandibles to make a meaningful dent and, therefore, the ants tend not to even try to bite a corpse. If an open wound is present, that might present a different story in that the body's soft inner tissues would be exposed and those might attract some ants.

—and if so do the corpses 'bruise' in appearance

or do the ants bite the victim as he struggles before dying

I cannot imagine how ants could be stinging the face of a person with a rope or belt around their neck hanging from a high object. How would the ants get there? How would they not fall off as he flails? Why would they be there in the first place, and why would they want to sting him? This is amazingly remarkable that anybody would even postulate such an idea. And, finally, even if by some hard-to-comprehend-manner, ants had gotten on to the person's face and had stung him, there still would be not enough time for the body to mount a bruising reaction. And, as I mentioned before, even if they did sting there still would be no bruising.

i don't know the species of red ant they are talking about, we have a large red Camponotus in Jamaica which does climb trees but not the soldiers who would do any biting; not sure about fire ants but not sure if Solenopsis invicta is red or climbs trees

The only ants that would climb trees in that area and that are big enough to really notice would be carpenter ants. Carpenter ants are mostly vegetarian although they will during brood rearing time bring insects and other protein sources. They are mostly noted for their defense when

the colony is disturbed. The other ants in the area, fire ants and harvester ants, only very rarely climb vertical surfaces – fire ants stay mainly on the ground and underground, while harvester ants almost never climb more than a few inches on vegetation.

Hope this helps.

Best regards,

Justin

