Roach 'Hormone' Hailed as Miracle Drug

NEW YORK (UPI) — Self-styled entomologist Josef Gregor and a band of zealous followers say the "cockroach-hormone" pills they gulp down once a week cure everything from acne to anemia and even make them invulnerable to nuclear radiation.

Gregor said the pills, produced in a secret laboratory in New Jersey, combine vitamins and minerals with a "hormone-extract" from a special "super" roach breed he developed.

AND JUST AS the household cockroach can survive repeated visits by the exterminator, Gregor and his 70 followers claim his pills are making their bodies capable of withstanding disease, chemicals and radiation.

"The roach is the only species to survive every environmental change over a period of 350 million years and it can survive 500 times the amount of radiation as man," Gregor said recently at a gathering of followers, members of a New York-based group called "Metamorphosis."

"This is our alternative to the survivalists, who store guns and food and will fight to survive. We will survive a nuclear holocaust by learning from the cockroach," said Gregor, who claims to have earned a Ph.D. in entomology from a South American university.

And in a manifesto that reads like the group's Bible, Gregor says, "As man has caused poisons to rain down about the bowed head of the Blatella germanica [cockroach] and its fellows, so have the multinationals rained toxins and unbelievable horrors upon our heads.

"But we shall follow the Path, the True Paths led by our Brethren."

Gregor, 40, who acknowledges that some people might call him "a mad scientist," claims the pill works the same as horse serum inoculations — it transfers certain immunity factors found in the roach to the pill swallowers.

"THIS ISN'T SOME SORT of cult group or a crackpot idea — the pill really does work," said one of his followers, Diane DiLauro, 34, a registered nurse who says she and her dentist-husband have taken the pill for a year. "I used to have a lot of allergies and colds, but since I've been taking this I haven't had one."

Other followers, some of whom admit they were wary at first, claimed the pill had cleared up a wide range of ailments, including asthma, acne, arthritis and anemia and even helped allow them to live on less food.

Gregor, who says he uses his own money and unidentified "private sources" to fund his research, gives the pills free to his followers — many of whom heard of Metamorphosis through word-of-mouth and local advertisements he had placed.

"I don't want to make money from this," he said, "just to help mankind."