

NEW RECORD FOR *Aedes thelcter* IN ARIZONAFRANCIS A. MALONEY AND BRENDA J. REID¹

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ABSTRACT. *Aedes thelcter* was recorded for the first time in Arizona. Three specimens were collected at the Yuma Proving Ground in Yuma County during August 1988. This collection complements previous collections of this species near Bard, California, during 1987.

On August 29, 1988, three female *Aedes (Ochlerotatus) thelcter* Dyar were collected in CDC light traps baited with dry ice at 2 sites on the cantonment area of the Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma County, Arizona. This collection represents the first record of *Ae. thelcter* in Arizona. The cantonment area of the Yuma Proving Ground is located approximately 2 km southeast of the Imperial Dam on the Colorado River. Two of the specimens were collected at the intersection of Route 24 and the Gila Canal. The third specimen was collected near a trailer park 2 km east of the first site. At both sites, *Ae. thelcter* were collected in association with *Aedes vexans* (Meigen), *Culex tarsalis* Coquillett, *Psorophora confinnis* (Lynch-Arribalzaga) and *Psorophora signipennis* (Coquillett).

Arnell (1976) reported that *Ae. thelcter* is a potential vector of Venezuelan equine encephalitis in the lower Rio Grande Valley. This species has been reported from most of Texas, southeastern New Mexico, southern Oklahoma, the Florida Keys (Darsie and Ward, 1981, Miller et al. 1964, Carpenter and La Casse, 1955), and extreme southeastern California (Meyer et al. 1988). Vargas (1956) reported *Ae. thelcter* from the states of Chihuahua, Tamaulipas and Sinaloa in Mexico. However, Arnell (1976) believed that records for this species from Sinaloa were in error. The specimens collected by Meyer et al. (1988) during 1987 came from sites in the vicinity of Bard, California, which is approximately 20 km southwest of the cantonment area of the Yuma Proving Ground. Meyer et al. (1988) considered the geographic distribution of *Ae. thelcter* in the United States as disjunct between populations in southeastern New Mexico and extreme southeastern California. The

collection of *Ae. thelcter* at the Yuma Proving Ground in 1988 has no impact on Meyer's hypothesis because that population is more than likely contiguous with the Bard valley population sampled by Meyer in 1987. The separate collections of *Ae. thelcter* made a year apart may indicate that this species has become established in the vicinity of extreme eastern Imperial County, California, and the adjacent area in western Yuma County, Arizona. CDC light trap collections made during 1983-86 at the Yuma Proving Ground did not contain *Ae. thelcter*.

Identifications were confirmed by Ralph E. Harbach of Walter Reed Biosystematics Unit at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, to whom we are grateful. The 3 specimens of *Ae. thelcter* have been deposited in the U.S. National Museum. The views of the authors do not purport to reflect the position of the U.S. Department of the Army or the Department of Defense.

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