

OCCURRENCE OF *PSOROPHORA HOWARDII* IN SUFFOLK COUNTY, LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

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ABSTRACT. *Psorophora howardii* has been confirmed in New York State for the first time, based on larvae from a rain pool and an adult female from a CDC trap catch. Both collections were reported from Suffolk County, Long Island, NY.

Psorophora howardii Coquillett is a nearctic species with a distribution range that includes most of the southeastern states of the U.S. (Carpenter and LaCasse 1955). It was reported as far west as Cara Grande, Pinal County, Arizona (Richards et al. 1956) and as far north as Davenport, Scott County, Iowa (Berry et al. 1986). In the eastern Atlantic states, the distribution of this species extends north to Warren County and Morris County, New Jersey (Crans 1989).

On August 13, 1990, two second instar larvae were taken from a rain pool in Gardiner Park, West Bay Shore, Suffolk County, Long Island, New York. Left in a small jar overnight pending identification, one larva disappeared, suggesting a predacious feeding habit of this species. The remaining larva was subsequently identified as *Ps. howardii*, based on characters described by Darsie and Ward (1981), and was reared to the adult stage until it emerged as a male. The larvae of *Ps. howardii* are known to occur mostly in temporary pools and are predators of other mosquito larvae with which they are associated.

On August 29, 1991, one female *Ps. howardii* was collected in a dry ice-baited CDC trap from the same location where the larvae were found in 1990. These 2 collections, within 2 successive years, indicate that this species has established itself in this part of New York State. Both specimens have been deposited in the collection of Suffolk County Bureau of Vector Control.

This is the first report of *Ps. howardii* existence in New York, and it brings the number of confirmed species in the state (Means 1987) to 59 and in Suffolk County (Means 1979, Guirgis 1984) to 42.

Means (1987) provided identification keys for the 6 known New York state *Psorophora* species;

of these, *Ps. ciliata* (Fabricius) is the only one that belongs to the subgenus *Psorophora*. The identification of *Ps. howardii*, also within the subgenus *Psorophora*, makes it advisable to amend these keys to include the differentiating characteristics reported by Carpenter and LaCasse (1955), or by Darsie and Ward (1981).

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