

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

CULISETA IMPATIENS (WALKER) IN ILLINOIS, A NEW STATE RECORD

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ABSTRACT. We report the 1st collection of *Culiseta impatiens* (Walker) from Illinois. Larvae of *Culiseta* subsequently identified as *Cs. impatiens* were collected from roadside ditches near Savoy, Champaign County, in east central Illinois in June 1997. This extends the known distribution of this species further south and east in the midwestern United States.

KEY WORDS *Culiseta impatiens*, Illinois, new record

Culiseta impatiens (Walker) is a broadly distributed mosquito in northern North America, having been collected from Alaska (Gjullin et al. 1961) to the Atlantic coast of Canada. In the continental United States, it is reported from the northern tier of states (Carpenter and LaCasse 1955) and more recently from Maryland (Pagac et al. 1992). In the midwestern United States, this species has been reported from as far south as Missouri, Wisconsin, and Michigan but not from Illinois (Ross and Horsfall 1965, Darsie and Ward 1981), which is contiguous with the other 3 states.

Third- and 4th-stage larvae of *Culiseta* were collected from roadside ditches near Savoy, Champaign County, in east central Illinois on June 25, 1997. Reared and preserved 4th-stage larvae and adult female specimens from this collection were subsequently identified as *Cs. impatiens*. The larvae had been collected from semipermanent water in a grass-filled roadside ditch along a highway adjacent to corn and soybean fields. Other mosquito larvae collected from the same site were *Aedes vexans* (Meigen), *Culex pipiens* L., *Culex restuans* Theobald, and *Culex territans* Walker. The habitat in which the larval *Cs. impatiens* were collected is common in Illinois and adjacent areas of Indiana and exploitation of this habitat would allow this mosquito to become widespread.

Culiseta impatiens possibly has been present but previously undetected in rural Illinois. Ross and Horsfall (1965) excluded this mosquito from iden-

tification keys for the mosquitoes of Illinois and adult females and larvae of *Cs. impatiens* would incorrectly be identified as *Culiseta inornata* (Williston) using their keys. Adult females were distinguished from those of *Cs. inornata* by the wing costa being entirely dark scaled and the larvae distinguished by the upper and lower frontal head hairs 5 and 6 being similar in size and number of branches (Carpenter and LaCasse 1955). Adult males and females, 4th-stage larvae, and pupae have been deposited in the Illinois Natural History Survey Museum in Champaign, IL.

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