

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

FIRST RECORD OF *Aedes albopictus* (SKUSE) FROM ARGENTINA

GUSTAVO C. ROSSI,¹ NELCI T. PASCUAL² AND FLAVIA J. KRSTICEVIC²

ABSTRACT. *Aedes albopictus* was collected in San Antonio City, Misiones Province, Argentina, near the border with Brazil in March, 1998. Collected material included 12 pupae, 1 recently emerged adult female, and a few larvae, which were found in a dish, a plough disk, and a tin pot. From the collected pupae, 5 males and 4 females emerged in the laboratory.

KEY WORDS Mosquito, vector arboviral diseases, new record, Misiones

Aedes albopictus (Skuse) is known as an efficient vector of dengue viruses and is a potential vector for a number of other viruses based on experimental studies, for example, eastern equine encephalomyelitis, Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis, and yellow fever viruses.

The domestic breeding habitats of *Ae. albopictus* provide an important link between humans and viruses. This species was 1st discovered in the continental United States in Harris County, Texas, in August 1985. *Aedes albopictus* spread rapidly throughout the eastern United States (Moore and Mitchell 1997). In South America, *Ae. albopictus* was reported from Brazil by Forattini (1986) for the 1st time, and subsequently found in 450 other Brazilian localities (Sant'Ana 1996), typically developing in discarded tires and small water containers. Recently, Natal et al. (1997) reported collecting *Ae. albopictus* breeding in Bromeliaceae in Curitiba (Paraná, Brazil). This species is an opportunistic container breeder, using either natural or artificial containers, and has the ability to survive in small collections of water in tires, plastic buckets, and plastic cups.

Herein, we report a breeding population of *Ae. albopictus* in Argentina. This finding constitutes the 1st record from the country, and the collecting site represents the southwesternmost locality for the species in South America.

On March 15, 1998, while conducting a routine

surveillance related to a provincial biodiversity project in entomology, 10 pupae were collected from a small dish containing approximately 3 liters of clean rainwater with organic matter on the bottom. The container was located in the garden of a house used as a temporary lodging for this project in the locality of San Antonio, Misiones Province (26°03'32.8"S, 53°43'56.1"W; 522 m above sea level), approximately 100 m from the San Antonio River, a small water course that constitutes the border between Argentina and Brazil.

In addition to the 10 pupae, 1 recently emerged female adult was collected. A total of 6 adults of *Ae. albopictus* emerged from the pupal collection with a 1:1 sex ratio. One 4th-stage larva (female) and 2 pupae (males) of *Ae. albopictus* as well as 9 2nd-stage larvae of *Culex* sp. were collected from a plough disk and a tin pot containing polluted water. In the same garden, other containers and tires were found holding a few larvae. All the containers were in shaded areas. One adult male of *Culex quinquefasciatus* Say and 1 female of *Coquillettidia shannoni* (Lane and Antunes) were also captured from 1 of the house walls. No other houses were inspected.

REFERENCES CITED

- Forattini, O. P. 1986. Identificacao de *Aedes (Stegomyia) albopictus* (Skuse) no Brasil. Rev. Saúde Pública 20: 244-245.
- Moore, C. G. and C. J. Mitchell. 1997. *Aedes albopictus* in the United States: ten years movement and public health importance. Emerg. Infect. Dis. 3:329-334.
- Natal, D., P. R. Urbinatti, C. B. Taípe-Lagos, W. Cereti, Jr., A. T. B. Diederichsen, R. G. Souza and R. P. Souza. 1997. Encontro de *Aedes (Stegomyia) albopictus* (Skuse) em Bromeliaceae na periferia de Sao Paulo, SP, Brazil. Rev. Saúde Pública 31:517-518.
- Sant'Ana, A. L. 1996. Primeiro encontro de *Aedes (Stegomyia) albopictus* (Skuse) no Estado do Paraná, Brasil. Rev. Saúde Pública 30:392-393.

¹ Centro de Estudios Parasitológicos y de Vectores, Universidad Nacional de La Plata—Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas, Calle 2 No. 584, (1900) La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

² Programa de Relevamiento de la Entomofauna Misionera, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas Químicas y Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Misiones, F. de Azara 1552, 5to piso, Lab. 20, (3300) Posadas, Misiones, Argentina.