

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

CONSERVATION OF THE NAMES *Aedes albothorax*, *Ae. circumluteolus*, AND *Ae. mcintoshii*

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ABSTRACT. As a result of action by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, the specific names *Aedes albothorax* (Theobald, 1907), *Ae. circumluteolus* (Theobald, 1908), and *Ae. mcintoshii* Huang, 1985, are conserved for common African mosquitoes; a neotype for *albothorax* is designated; and the specific name *Banksinella pallida* Theobald, 1907, is suppressed.

KEY WORDS *Aedes*, *Neomelanicion*, *Ae. albothorax*, *Ae. circumluteolus*, *Ae. mcintoshii*

Aedes albothorax (Theobald, 1907), *Ae. circumluteolus* (Theobald, 1908), and *Ae. mcintoshii* Huang, 1985, are common floodwater mosquitoes of the subgenus *Neomelanicion* widespread in sub-Saharan Africa. All 3 feed readily on humans and large domestic animals, and *circumluteolus* and *mcintoshii* have been found infected with several arboviruses, including Wesselbron and Rift Valley Fever (Jupp 1996).

Theobald (1907) described *Banksinella luteolateralis* var. *albothorax* and var. *pallida* from 3 females from Inkutu, The Gambia. The holotype of *albothorax* had white scales on the top of the head and sides of the scutum, and the 2 syntypes of *pallida* had pale gray or pale silvery gray scales in these positions. Edwards (1941) treated *albothorax* as a distinct species, synonymized *pallida* with it, and redescribed and illustrated the species from East African specimens. He stated that East African specimens differed from the types from Inkutu by having dark scales on the forked veins of the wing. This statement is in reality only partly true because the holotype of *albothorax* has dark scales on the forked veins.

Theobald (1908) described *Banksiella* [!] *luteolateralis* var. *circumluteola* from a single female from Transvaal, South Africa, with pale yellow scales on the top of the head and sides of the scutum. Edwards (1941) considered *circumluteolus* to be a distinct species and used the color of the scales on the sides of the scutum to distinguish it from *albothorax*.

Huang (1985) studied *Aedes lineatopennis* (Ludlow, 1905), which was considered to extend from the Orient to Africa and Australia, and concluded that African specimens were specifically distinct from those from the Orient. She described the African species as *Ae. mcintoshii*. The holotype male, from Onderstepoort, Transvaal, South Africa, has golden yellow scales on the top of the head and sides of the scutum.

As reported earlier (Zavortink 1992), I studied

the types of *albothorax*, *pallida*, *circumluteolus*, and *mcintoshii* as part of a taxonomic study of *Aedes* (*Neomelanicion*). I concluded that the holotype of *albothorax* is a bleached (faded) specimen of the species called *circumluteolus* and the single surviving syntype of *pallida* is a bleached specimen of the species called *mcintoshii*. Strict adherence to the Principle of Priority would require synonymizing *circumluteolus* with *albothorax*, describing a new species for *albothorax* of Edwards (1941) and later authors, and synonymizing the name *mcintoshii* with *pallida*. Because these actions would disrupt stability and cause confusion, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature was petitioned to conserve the specific names in their accustomed usages (Zavortink 1993). To conserve both *albothorax* and *circumluteolus*, the Commission was petitioned to use its plenary powers to set aside the type status of the holotype of *albothorax* and to designate a neotype representing the East African species that has gone by this name since 1941. To conserve *mcintoshii*, the Commission was petitioned to suppress *pallida*. The case was published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (50:39-43, March 1993), and after the interval of time for receiving comments, the members of the Commission voted to approve the petitions. The Commission's ruling was published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (51:179-180, June 1994). Specific points of the ruling are: 1) the type status of the holotype of *albothorax* Theobald, 1907, is set aside and a neotype from East Africa is designated; 2) the specific name *pallida* Theobald, 1907, is suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority. The names *albothorax* Theobald, 1907; *circumluteola* Theobald, 1908; and *mcintoshii* Huang, 1985, are placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology, and the name *pallida* Theobald, 1907, is placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

The neotype of *albothorax* is a female with as-

sociated larval and pupal skins (KEN 166-17), part of a progeny series, from Lake Mbaratumu, 2 km N Kakuyuni, Coast Province, Kenya (3°12'S, 40°0'E), elevation less than 30 m, mother collected among sedges at edge of lake, 1500-1600 h, June 23, 1990, L. P. Lounibos and T. J. Zavortink. The neotype is deposited in the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco (Type 16988).

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