

A NOTE ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *ANOPHELES ALGERIENSIS* THEOBALD IN WESTERN FRANCEROBERT A. HEDEEN<sup>1</sup>

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**INTRODUCTION.** *Anopheles algeriensis*. Theobald is generally regarded as a species which normally inhabits the Mediterranean Region. However, its sporadic occurrence has been previously reported from central European countries. Marshall (1938) reports its presence from three localities in the British Isles, and Martini (1931) collected adult specimens from Crefeld in Northern Germany. It has also been reported from the following countries which border on the Mediterranean Sea: Italy, Algeria, Greece, Egypt, Libya, Spain, Palestine, Turkey, (Marshall, 1938, and Edwards, 1921). As far as can be determined by the writer, this species has not been reported previously from within the geographical boundaries of France.

**THE PRESENT STUDY.** This species was collected on two occasions from Western France by members of the U. S. Army Medical Service during the period of 1955 to 1956. In March of 1955 the writer collected four larvae of this species from a semi-permanent pool of water that contained dense vegetation near the city of La Rochelle, in the Department of Charente Maritime. This collection of water also contained large numbers of fully matured larvae of *Aedes rusticus* (Rossi). In April of 1956, the writer was called upon to identify a heterogeneous collection of adult mosquitoes which had been reared from several collections of larvae made the previous month from the vicinity of St. Nazaire in the Department of Loire Inferieure. Sixteen of these adults were readily identified as specimens of *A. algeriensis*. Due to the fact that this collection consisted of adult

specimens which were reared from larvae taken from several locations which were undifferentiated by the collector in the immediate vicinity of St. Nazaire, it was impossible to determine the exact ecological niche from which the *algeriensis* specimens were collected. From the information available, however, it is considered quite possible that the specimens of this species were collected from the margins of a slow-moving stream that was slightly brackish in nature.

Russell, *et al.*, (1943) states that specimens of *A. algeriensis* infected with malarial parasites have been found in nature, but that the species is not considered to be an important vector of the disease. Bates (in Boyd, Vol. I, 1949) remarks that the most common breeding place of this species is in spring-fed streams of a constant temperature that does not exceed 20° C. He also states that the adults do not migrate far from their breeding areas, but choose to remain in the immediate vicinity, where they feed mainly on wild animals. For these reasons, Bates considers the species to be relatively unimportant as a vector of malaria in the European and Middle Eastern regions. Edwards (1932) states that in England this species feeds readily on man in the open in calm, dull weather or in sheltered spots at dawn and dusk. Because of these data which have been reported previously, and because of the fact that this species is apparently more widespread in its distribution than was formerly thought, it is the belief of the writer that it may be of more importance than was formerly believed.

**SUMMARY.** Two records of the collection of *Anopheles algeriensis* Theobald are reported from two different areas in Western France. As far as can be determined, this is the first record of this

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species having been reported from within the geographical boundaries of France. Its sporadic occurrence has been reported from European countries other than France and its importance as a potential vector of disease is briefly considered.

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