

A GYNANDROMORPH IN *Culicoides*¹L. COLIN CURTIS²

Aberrant sexual forms are sufficiently rare among insects to call for comment when they are encountered. Roth (1948) summarized a number of examples in Culicidae, and Davis (1957) added two more, but among *Culicoides* recorded cases are exceedingly rare. This fact may well be a function of the small number of workers interested in the midges, compared with those dealing with mosquitoes. Dzharfarov

In the course of examination of a light trap collection made at Kamloops, B. C. on 8th September, 1961, a specimen of *Culicoides variipennis* (Coq.) appeared somewhat abnormal. Examination showed it to have mainly female characteristics, but a distinctly male abdomen and terminalia. Antennae, palps, and mouthparts were all of the female type, supra-ocular tubercles were present, and the wings were well marked as in

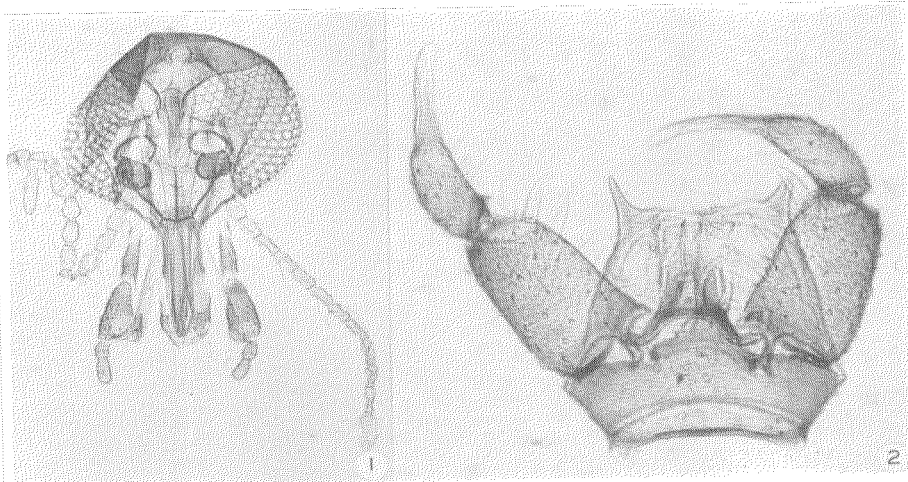


FIG. 1.—Head of Gynandromorph showing female characters
FIG. 2.—Genitalia of gynandromorph

(1960) recorded intersexes in *C. pulicaris* and *C. pallidicornis* but these are believed to be the only cases previously recorded for the genus.

The bulk of gynandromorphs appear to be of the mosaic type, with male and female structures appearing at random through the body, while others are bilateral. Antero-posterior dimorphism is seen least often. The two specimens reported by Davis in mosquitoes are of this type, as is the subject of this note.

a normal female. There was a perfect set of male genitalia, and no trace of spermathecae.

Since the specimen was dead when taken, no observations of behaviour were possible. The slide is being deposited in the Canadian National Collection.

Literature Cited

¹ Contribution No. 15 from Entomological Laboratory, Canada Agriculture Research Station, Kamloops, B.C.

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