

OCCURRENCE OF *ORTHOPODOMYIA ALBA* IN WEST VIRGINIA<sup>1</sup>

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The tropical genus *Orthopodomyia* (Theobald) extends northward into the United States where it is represented by 2 species, *Or. signifera* (Coquillett) and *Or. alba* Baker. *Or. signifera* is common and widespread, but the sympatric species, *Or. alba* is generally considered to be rare. The mosquitoes of this genus breed in water in tree holes and occasionally in artificial water containers. Adults are seclusive and neither species is known to be of any importance to man nor a vector of any disease. This paper reports the first collection of *Or. alba* from West Virginia.

The new state record is based on one adult male and one female which emerged on January 15, 1979, having been collected as larvae at the West Virginia University Forest, Coopers Rock State Park, Monongalia County, West Virginia, on December 14, 1978, by the author.

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The larvae were found in a water-filled tree hole in red maple. The hole had been originally drilled in January 1976 by the United States Forest Service to study the effectiveness of artificial tree holes as den sites for various rodent species. The original entrance to the hole was approximately 7.6 cm in diameter and the red maple had a diameter at breast height of about 77.2 cm. The tree hole is located 8.2 m above the ground with a diameter at time of collection of 7.0 cm.

Baker (1936) and Jenkins and Carpenter (1946) stated that *Or. alba* has always been collected in association with *Or. signifera*. No *Or. signifera* were taken during the current study. However, on April 12, 1979, diapausing eggs of *Aedes hendersoni* Cockerell were found in the dry detritus of the tree hole. Several larvae that hatched from these eggs were reared to adults. *Ae. hendersoni* has only once before been collected in West Virginia (Amrine and Butler 1978).

References Cited

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