

# NOTES ON MOSQUITO MIGRATION IN SALT LAKE CITY IN 1945

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A migration of *Aedes dorsalis* arrived in Salt Lake City on June 22. In the evening of this date they were present only in the west part of the city and were very annoying to inhabitants of this area. The following evening they were distributed and annoying throughout the city. These migrants were present in the city until about July 3 when they began to disappear, and by July 9 they could no longer be detected.

These mosquitoes were produced in extensive temporary breeding water on the flats west of the city in water arising from excessive precipitation and a resulting increase in irrigation waste water. The migrants flew, before reaching the city, a distance of at least two miles and most of them moved in from much greater distances. Conditions at the time were favorable for a migration of this species, consisting of (1) a concentration of mosquitoes in the breeding areas, and (2) suitable atmospheric conditions of temperature and humidity. In addition a clear full moon was present on the nights when the migration occurred.

This last factor motivates the presentation of these notes for publication. In investigating migrations of *Aedes dorsalis* into Salt Lake City from the marshes west of the city, the author has observed seven major migrations of this type that have taken place since 1931 and all have occurred at the time of a full moon. During this period numerous general dispersals or minor migrations have taken place in this area whenever other conditions were favorable, but all major migrations of *Aedes dorsalis* have taken place at the time of a full moon.

In the opinion of the author this repeated phenomenon is more than a coincidence. These seven major migratory flights of *Aedes dorsalis* have all been from the west towards the east. In each instance the migrants moved in a general easterly direction rather than moving out in all directions as in a general dispersal. The influence of the moon on mosquito migrations, if any, has not been established; but such an influence seems highly probable as the moon is known to affect the movement of certain other animals.