

A PRELIMINARY LIST OF MOSQUITOES OCCURRING IN THE VICINITY OF NOME, ALASKA

H. H. STAGE¹ AND E. A. MCKINLAY²

In July 1944 we tested several insect repellents against the mosquito hordes occurring in the vicinity of Nome, Alaska. In the course of these tests we made observations of the species present and their relative numbers. Again during the summer of 1945 the junior author collected mosquito larvae, bred some out, and sent to Washington for identification³ larvae and adults taken from that area.

Of the nine species taken during the two seasons, *Aedes nearcticus* Dyar was the most abundant mosquito found, and it was most generally distributed over an 8-mile radius from Nome between the Nome and Snake Rivers.

Except for *Culiseta impatiens* (Walk.), all larvae had emerged before our observations were made in July 1944. In 1945, however, third and fourth instars of *Aedes nearcticus*, *A. communis* Deg., *A. nigripes* Zett., *A. riparius* Dyar & Knab, and *A. cataphylla* Dyar were taken the first week in June. These species, as well as those taken later, were collected out on the tundra at an altitude of about 200 feet in the characteristic shallow pools of icy cold water. The tundra in the vicinity of Nome is a marshy plain from the sea-coast back to the hills and mountains several miles inland. It is characterized

by hummocks of moss and bunch grass varying from a few inches to about 20 inches in height. Between these hummocks, pools and little streams of water furnish abundant breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Most of the water comes from the thawing of the subterranean ice and from springs along the hillsides. Everywhere the ground is covered with mosses, lichens, and prostrate plants. Willows are the largest shrubs of this region, and they range in height from 2 or 3 feet across the tundra to 8 or 10 feet along the streams.

After the middle of June 1945, larvae of *A. cinereus* Meig., *A. pullatus* (Coq.), and *A. punctor* (Kirby) were taken less frequently and in fewer numbers. *A. nearcticus* was taken alone and in association with *A. cinereus*, *A. cataphylla*, and *A. punctor*. *A. cinereus* was associated with *A. communis* and *A. nearcticus*; *A. cataphylla* with *A. nearcticus*; *A. nigripes* with *A. punctor*; *A. pullatus* with *A. communis*; and *A. punctor* with *A. cinereus*, *A. nigripes*, and *A. nearcticus*. No *A. riparius* larvae were taken. *Culiseta impatiens* larvae of all stages were taken during July 1944 in pure cultures in temporary rain pools.

As far as we have been able to ascertain, in spite of the great numbers of mosquitoes present, these are the only mosquito records in the immediate vicinity of Nome except for a record of *Aedes punctodes* Dyar by F. Johannsen on August 21, 1916.

¹ Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Agricultural Research Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

² Corporal, U. S. Army Medical Corps.

³ All species were determined by Alan Stone, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.