

## A VESPID PREYING ON ANOPHELINES

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Early in February 1947, while collecting mosquitoes on the inside of a stable trap at the edge of the jungle near Moengo, Suriname, South America, I noticed a social wasp catching and devouring adult anophelines which had been attracted to the calf bait. Two anophelines were caught and the first was almost completely devoured before I fully comprehended what I saw. The second victim was only partly consumed, because I wanted to lose no time in capturing the predator and bring it back to the States for positive identification.

The first victim apparently had evaded the predator or had possibly been caught while in flight, because my attention was first attracted to the insects as they settled on the screen, the anopheline being securely held by the jaws and feet of the attacker. In less than a minute later the social wasp, a vespid, had pounced upon the second anopheline less than six inches away as the latter was resting upon the screen of the stable trap and, without any apparent struggle, quickly consumed part

of the mosquito's abdomen. At that instant the insects were caught in a chloroform tube. Although positive determination was impossible, I am reasonably sure the anopheline was *A. aquasalis* Curry.

During the next two weeks several thousand mosquitoes were captured in stable traps, but I did not witness this interesting phenomenon again.

Identification of the vespid as *Polybia occidentalis parvula* (F.) was kindly made by K. V. Krombein, of the Division of Insect Identification of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

According to Bequaert (1944), the known range of this vespid is Mexico to Brazil. As far as I have been able to determine, this is the first record of this insect preying on mosquitoes.

### Reference

- BEQUAERT, J. 1944. The social Vespidae of the Guianas, particularly of British Guiana. Harvard Univ. Mus. Comp. Zool. Bul. 94: [249]-304.

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## OBITUARY

Dr. Alfonso Dampf, Professor of Entomology in the National School of Biological Sciences of the National Polytechnic Institute of Mexico, died on March 17. MOSQUITO NEWS was notified of Dr. Dampf's death by notices thoughtfully sent by his widow and by the Director of the School, through Professor Diodoro Antunez Echagaray.

The notice received from Professor Echagaray reads as follows:

"La Escuela Nacional de Ciencias Biológicas del Instituto Politécnico Nacional, tiene la profunda pena de participar a ud. (s) que el día 17 del

actual, falleció en esta ciudad, el distinguido maestro e investigador Doctor Alfonso Dampf Tenson, después de 25 años de constante y fructífera labor científica en México.

México, D. F., Marzo de 1948

Por el Director,

El Sub-Director

Prof. Diodoro Antunez Echagaray."

Dr. Dampf was a member of many scientific societies not only in Mexico and the United States, but also in various foreign countries.