

## Current Taxonomic Research on the Project "Mosquitoes of Middle America"

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The following taxonomic studies are currently in progress at the Department of Zoology, University of California, Los Angeles, California 90024 in connection with the project "Mosquitoes of Middle America" supported by U. S. Public Health Service Grant AI-04379 and U. S. Medical Research and Development Command Research Contract DA-49-193-MD-2478. Additional material for these studies from North, Central and South America and the West Indies would be greatly appreciated and should be sent to John N. Belkin at the above address.

"Culicidae of Jamaica." John N. Belkin, Sandra J. Heinemann and cooperator William A. Page of the University of Edinburgh. This regional faunal study was undertaken in cooperation with the Institute of Jamaica and the University of the West Indies. It is now in the final stage of preparation and should be completed during summer 1969, with publication before the end of the year in the series "Mosquito Studies" (Contrib. Amer. Entomol. Inst.) and as a Bulletin of the Institute of Jamaica. The subfamilies Dixinae and Chaoborinae are considered in addition to the Culicinae. Additional material from Jamaica as well as the other Greater Antilles is needed.

"Aedes (Finlaya) terreus group." Robert X. Schick. This general revision is nearing completion and is expected to be published before the end of 1969. Thirty-three species and forms will be recognized, A. terreus, A. argyrothorax, 7 species currently synonymized with these 2, and 24 new species and forms. The most characteristic morphological feature of the adults is the pattern of silver banding of the mid- and hindtarsi, only the 1st and 2nd segments showing silver bands with the remaining segments dark. Three species, however, depart from this typical pattern. In 2 the 1st and 2nd segments are marked as above but the 5th tarsal segment of at least the hindleg is silvered and in the 3rd species the mid- and hindtarsi are dark except for a narrow basal ring on midtarsal segment 1. All the species are forest inhabitants and breed primarily in treeholes.

"Container breeding Aedes other than terreus group, Howardina and Stegomyia." Thomas J. Zavortink. This study covers primarily all the groups of Finlaya other than terreus, miscellaneous treehole breeders currently placed in Ochlerotatus (such as the varipalpus complex and muelleri) and purpureipes. Included in this study are all the North American species belonging to these groups.

"Treehole breeding Anopheles." Thomas J. Zavortink. The material of this complex from Mexico, Central America and Panama is extremely scanty but at least 2 distinct new species occur in this area in addition to xelajuensis and fausti. Additional material from this area is greatly needed as not all stages are available for all the species and no topotypic material of xelajuensis is known. Included in this study are the North American barberi and a recently described species from Arizona (Zavortink, T. J. 1969. Amer. Entomol. Inst., Contrib. 4(4): 27-38).

"Subgenera of Culex with short male palpus." O.G.W. Berlin and John N. Belkin. This study deals with the species of Culex currently assigned in the catalog to the subgenera Aedinus and Eubonnea. In the opinion of Belkin (1968. Amer. Entomol. Inst., Contrib. 3(4): 11-12) several unrelated phylads are lumped at present under

Aedinus and this name is not applicable to any of these but should replace Eubonnea. Some of these phylads contain species with long male palpus. The following groups appear to be distinct, Micraedes containing only bromeliad breeders, Tinolestes crabhole breeders, and Anoedioporpa treehole and bamboo breeders. Some of the species currently in Aedinus should be assigned to Melanoconion.

"Revision of the subgenus Carrollia of Culex." Jose D. Valencia, graduate student, has just begun a revision of the subgenus Carrollia for his PhD dissertation. The subgenus is much more complex than appears from the listing of species in the catalog. Additional material is needed from all areas but particularly from Colombia and western Venezuela.

"Revision of the genus Deinocerites." Abdiel J. Adames, graduate student, has been working on this revision for nearly two and a half years and expects to complete his PhD dissertation by 30 June 1970. Although much material, including individual rearings for most species, is available additional material of all stages is needed for all species. Particularly important present gaps are for spanius from both coasts of Panama and all material from the Caribbean coasts of Colombia and Venezuela (including outlying islands), Lago Valencia in Venezuela, the Guianas and Brazil.