

New Species and Records of Treehole Mosquitoes from  
the South Western United States

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The treehole mosquito fauna of the southwestern United States has recently been subject to intensive collecting by several individuals. Much of the material accumulated is now at UCLA; it includes at least 3 undescribed species, 1 Anopheles and 2 Aedes, and a species of Toxorhynchites, a genus not previously recorded from the area.

The new Anopheles is commonly encountered in Arizona and southwestern New Mexico and has been confused with An. barberi Coquillett, 1903, for nearly 30 years. A formal description of this species and a comparison of it with An. barberi is now in press (Zavortink, T.J. 1969. Mosquito Studies (Diptera, Culicidae). XV. A new species of treehole breeding Anopheles from the southwestern United States. Amer. Entomol. Inst., Contrib. 4(4):27-38).

One of the new Aedes is an Ochlerotatus of the varipalpus complex from the desert drainages of southern California. A description of this species is currently being prepared. The other new Aedes is a Finlaya from southeastern Arizona. This species has been reported as Ae. kompi (Burger, J.F. 1965. Aedes kompi Vargas and Downs 1950, new to the United States. Mosquito News 25:396-398). This and two other undescribed species from Mexico and Guatemala form a natural group allied to Ae. kompi. The descriptions of these species will appear in a forthcoming paper dealing with the New World Finlaya exclusive of the terrens group.

The species of Toxorhynchites has been collected in numerous localities in southeastern Arizona. Its identity cannot be ascertained until a complete revision of the subgenus Lynchiella is undertaken. The adults of the Arizonan species are distinct from both T. rutilus (Coquillett, 1896) and T. septentrionalis (Dyar & Knab, 1906); they are similar to most of the specimens from Mexico, Guatemala and Costa Rica I have seen and are possibly conspecific with T. moctezuma (Dyar & Knab, 1906) which is currently regarded as one of the numerous synonyms of T. theobaldi (Dyar & Knab, 1906). This synonymy is very questionable in view of the fact that the type locality of theobaldi as determined by Belkin (1969. Mosquito Studies (Diptera, Culicidae). IX. The type specimens of New World mosquitoes in European museums. Amer. Entomol. Inst., Contrib. 3(4):34) is Bogota, Colombia at an elevation of nearly 9,000 feet.