

ARTICLES

Corrected Type Localities for
Wyeomyia abia D. & K., 1908 and W. fratercula D. & K., 1906

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In the early stages of the preparation of the monograph on the Mosquitoes of North and Central America and the West Indies (Howard, Dyar and Knab), a great deal of material obtained by several different collectors was being processed in Washington. It is not surprising that some errors in labelling occurred at this time because of difficulties in deciphering the field notes and handwritten labels. A further complication arose because the study of the adults was the responsibility of D. W. Coquillett while that of the larvae was placed in the hands of H. G. Dyar (Dyar and Knab, 1906. N. Y. Entomol. Soc., J. 14:169-170). Some of these errors have been noted and corrected in the past and I am reporting 2 additional ones here involving the type localities of Wyeomyia abia and W. fratercula.

Wyeomyia abia Dyar & Knab, 1908 (U. S. Nat. Mus., Proc. 35:67) was described from 1 female and 1 male (most of abdomen now missing) collected by F. E. Campbell supposedly in Dominica, W. I. The larval material associated with this is mentioned by Dyar and Knab (1906. N. Y. Entomol. Soc., J. 14:229) under their description of W. ochrura as having been collected by Surgeon W. Campbell in Dominica and named "Wyeomyia grayii Theob." [by Coquillett]. Howard, Dyar and Knab (1915. Mosquitoes North Central Amer. West Indies, 3:115) in their discussion of abia state: "The larvae were at first identified as Wyeomyia mitchellii (=ochrura). The adults were at first identified as Wyeomyia grayii (a species at present unknown to us), but later recognized as a distinct species," and give the locality as Dominica, Lesser Antilles, and the collector as F. E. Campbell.

No additional material of abia, considered currently as a synonym of medioalbipes Lutz, 1904 in the catalog and by Stone (1969. Smithsonian Contrib. Zool. 16:2,3), has been found in extensive recent surveys of the island of Dominica. Since the 2 specimens of abia agree in all respects with the 2 adults reared from the type series of larvae of ochrura from Santo Domingo, I looked into the possibility that the specimens of abia were incorrectly labelled as to locality. I found that all the other material recorded in Howard, Dyar and Knab as having been collected by F. E. Campbell (Sabethes bipartipes, Deinocerites cancer and Psorophora infinis) came from Santo Domingo. I now have received confirmation from Dr. F. E. Campbell's widow, through her daughter Mrs. Kenneth Wood, that the Campbells met August Busck in the Dominican Republic

in the fall of 1905 and that all of Dr. Campbell's mosquito collecting was done in the Dominican Republic on the island of Hispaniola and not in Dominica. Therefore, I am here amending the type locality of Wyeomyia abia Dyar & Knab, 1908 from Dominica to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. This material was probably collected at the same time as that of ochrura and I consider both to be conspecific with mitchellii (Theobald, 1905) from Jamaica and the latter distinct from medioalbipes.

Wyeomyia fratercula Dyar & Knab, 1906 is still known only by the unique holotype female. This specimen bears the labels//71//Martinique/ July WI//Aug. Busck/Collector//Type No/9995/U.S.N.M.//Wyeomyia/sp.// . The field notes of August Busck give the following data for collection 71 //In deserted sugar/mill. In iron work/of and in old/boiler next to it two/spec prob--/C. pipiens/C. salinarius//. There is no indication of Martinique here but the collections before and after 71 were made in Martinique. It is most unlikely that a species of Wyeomyia would be found breeding in an artificial container in association with Culex (C.) quinquefasciatus. No specimens of Wyeomyia with silvery apn have been found anywhere in the Lesser Antilles in extensive recent surveys. The holotype of fratercula agrees in all important details with specimens from the extensive type series of sororcula Dyar & Knab, 1906 which was described at the same time as fratercula from material collected by August Busck in the Dominican Republic. Therefore, I consider that the holotype of fratercula was probably also collected in the Dominican Republic, possibly at the same time as the 53 specimens of sororcula, and I am designating the Dominican Republic as its type locality. These 2 nominal species represent a form distinct from vanduzeei Dyar & Knab, 1906 and I am hereby selecting sororcula as the valid name for this species in preference to fratercula which was described on the same page.