

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

April 9, 1970

At the Entomological Research Center, Vero Beach, Florida, we are currently engaged in a taxonomic study of the adult females of the Florida species of the Culex subgenera Melanoconion and Mochlostyrax. One stimulus for this investigation was the recovery of Venezuelan equine encephalitis from unidentified mosquitoes belonging to one or both of the groups. Another was the many specimens of the subgenera occurring among the blood-engorged mosquitoes which were being collected by Dr. John Edman for determination of natural hosts by precipitin tests. Useful characters were found by matching up females and identified males, and reliable specimens were obtained by rearing females from identified larvae. We feel that we have developed a workable key for all seven species (especially for fresh or frozen specimens) but we would like to test it on material from other parts of the United States, the Caribbean, or Central America. The loan of any specimens, male or female, of Culex (Melanoconion) atratus, C. (Mel.) erraticus, C. (Mel.) iolambdis, C. (Mel.) mulrennani, C. (Mel.) opisthopus (annulipes) as defined by Galindo, Mosq. Syst. Newsletter, vol. 1, No. 4), C. (Mel.) peccator, and C. (Mochlostyrax) pilosus would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Judy Williams Knight

James S. Haeger
Entomological Research Center
P. O. Box 308
Vero Beach, Florida 32960