

Extension of the Distributional Range of Aedes triseriatus
(Say) to Greenland*

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While doing some general collecting in Southwestern Greenland I collected a few mosquitoes. These were submitted to Dr. Alan Stone of the U. S. National Museum for determination. He pointed out to me that the Aedes triseriatus (Say) in the collection represented a dramatic extension of the range of this species.

Two males were collected 15 July 1967 at Narssarssuaq, Greenland by sweeping vegetation near the airbase. During World War II this was an American Air Force Base, Blue West I. It is now a commercial air strip operated by Scandinavian Airways System. Small birch trees do grow in sheltered places around the base and large timbers are scattered about, so it is conceivable that the mosquitoes were transported to Greenland by military personnel or even in lumber and became established.

According to Carpenter and La Casse (1955), "The larvae develop in holes in many kinds of deciduous trees and occasionally in artificial containers such as wooden tubs, barrels, and watering troughs." Therefore it seems plausible that they could become established in a sheltered area such as is found at Narssarssuaq and survive the severe winters as eggs. Being crepuscular and having a permanent human population to feed upon would also assure their survival.

Their previously known distribution has been southern Canada and the Eastern United States. There are records of them from the Florida Keys and west to Utah, Idaho, and British Columbia. Twinn (1949) reported them from Quebec with no locality given. This is the most northerly record to date.

Some other mosquitoes were collected in this area also. Aedes impiger (Walker) was collected 14 July 1967 at Kagssiarssuk across the fiord from Narssarssuaq (7 females) and two female Aedes nigripes (Zett.) were even collected, one at Igaliko on the other side of the mountains from Narssarssuaq, and one from Narssarssuaq. Both of these species are common in treeless arctic areas so their being found in Greenland is not surprising.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Alan Stone for determining these specimens and for his advice in preparing this note.

All specimens have been deposited in the U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

Literature Cited

Carpenter, S. J. and W. J. La Casse. 1955. Mosquitoes of North America. Univ. Calif. Press, Berkeley. 360 pgs.

Twinn, C. R. 1949. Mosquitoes and mosquito control in Canada. Mosquito News 9:35-41.

*Scientific Article No. A1684, Contribution No. 6435 of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, Department of Entomology