

## Interesting Mosquito Records from Kenya

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One of us (M.J.M.) investigating a cave in the foothills of mount Elgon, Kenya found a number of mosquito larvae in water pools, in total darkness, deep inside the cave. Although a number of cave-dwelling mosquitoes have been recorded from Africa none so far have been found in Kenya. None of the species found in this cave belong to the known cavernicolous species but are high country species commonly found breeding in shaded situations in the open. In view of the unusual breeding site of these mosquitoes the following notes are presented.

The cave, as mentioned before, is situated in the foothills of mount elgon at Kapsakwony (approx. 0°5'N, 34° 43'E) at an altitude of 6059 feet. The entrance is very narrow, about 3 feet in diameter but inside the roof gradually heightens until a man can stand up and beyond 100 yards the roof is 8-12 feet high. Here where no daylight reaches a number of water pools were found, some clear, some murky and from about 6 inches to 3 feet deep. The only signs of vertebrate animal life were bats roosting on the roof and porcupine quills on the floor.

The larvae were collected from the shallow pools and identified as Anopheles (Cellia) garnhami Edwards and Culex (Culex) trifilatus Edwards as follows:

- No. 1, dirty water pool - 3 A. garnhami
- No. 2, clean water pool - 18 A. garnhami and 6 C. trifilatus
- No. 3, clean water pool - 16 A. garnhami and 4 C. trifilatus

Adult mosquitoes were seen resting on the walls of the cave around the water pools and 60 specimens were collected. These were 9 male and 25 female A. garnhami, 20 male and 1 female C. trifilatus and 5 male Culex (Culex) andersoni Edwards.

As with A. garnhami elsewhere, this cave-dwelling population showed variations in ornamentation. Thus 5 of the 25 females had 4-banded palps, 10 had no pre-accessory dark spot on the wing and of the others the accessory pale spot was much reduced on 5 and lacking on 1; 2 had no pale fringe spot at the end of the lower fork of the 5th. vein. Most specimens had the pale tarsal bands much reduced and a few had entirely dark tarsi.

Both C. trifilatus and C. andersoni were typical as determined on the character of the male genitalia.

It is interesting to note that only one female Culex was caught and no mosquitoes were attracted to human bait nor were there any gravid or blood-fed specimens in the collection.