

Description of the Egg of Aedes (Aedimorphus) domesticus
(Theobald) (Diptera: Culicidae)¹

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The eggs of Aedes (Aedimorphus) domesticus (Theobald) are herein described for the first time. Aedes vexans (Meigen) is the only other species in the subgenus Aedimorphus which has the eggs described. The following description is based on 3 mature eggs extracted from the abdomen of a museum specimen which possessed the following collection data on the labels: NIGERIA, Lagos, 2 September 1929, C. B. Philip collector and genitalia preparation number T71.66. Nomenclature used follows that of Kalpage and Brust (1968) and Craig and Horsfall (1960).

DESCRIPTION OF THE EGG
(Figs. 1-2)

Shape. Spindle-shaped; anterior end with sharp taper, posterior end with a more gradual taper; greatest diameter between anterior third and middle. Size. Length 855-885 microns; width 242-255 microns. Color. Dark brown. Chorion. Reticulation more distinct on anterior third and posterior third, composed of a pattern of axially arranged cells which are hexagonal and polygonal in shape and 3-6 times as long as wide; pattern differs on middle position (see figure 1).

DISCUSSION

The eggs of domesticus have a similar shape and chorion sculpturing to those of vexans but can be distinguished from those of the latter species by their larger size. The above 3 eggs of Aedes domesticus have a length of 855-885 microns and a width of 242-255 microns while vexans from Manitoba, Canada, is recorded by Kalpage and Brust (1968: 711) as having a length of 630-745 microns and a width of 167-205 microns. Myers (1967: 796) records the length as 614-713 microns and the width as 199-224 microns for eggs of vexans from California and Nevada, U.S.A.

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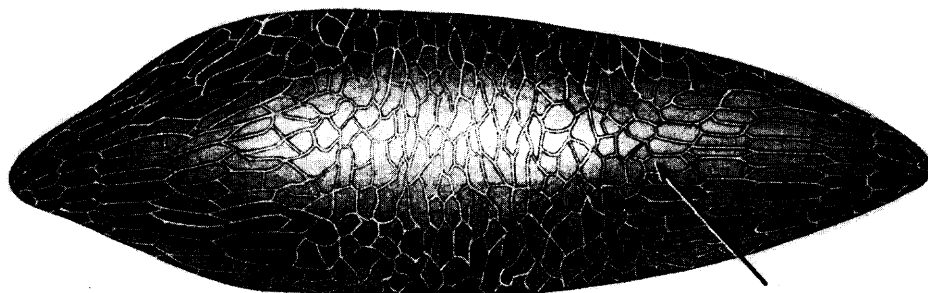
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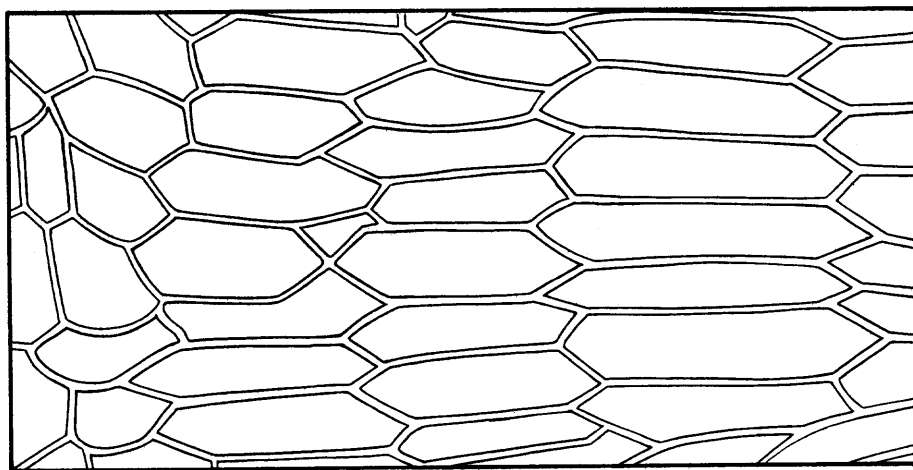
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FIG. 1. Dorsoventral outline of *Aedes (Aedimorphus) domesticus* egg illustrating shape and reticulation. Dorsal aspect is towards the top and anterior end is to the left.

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FIG. 2. Enlargement of egg chorion reticulation of *Aedes (Aedimorphus) domesticus* from area indicated by the arrow in figure 1.