

A New Record of *Culex (Culex) edwardsi* Barraud
from the Philippines¹
(Diptera: Culicidae)¹

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ABSTRACT: A new record of the species, *Culex (Culex) edwardsi* Barraud in the Philippines is reported. The characters of the adult female to differentiate it from the other closely related species, *Culex (Culex) barraudi* Edwards, are given.

The Barraudi Subgroup of *Culex* has not been known to be represented in the Philippine mosquito fauna until now. Previously it was reported only from India, Papua-New Guinea, Queensland, Australia, and Sri Lanka.

Two females were first collected in light traps at two different places on Luzon Island. One in January 1977 at Camp John Hay in Baguio City, some 5,000 feet above sea level, and the other in October of the same year at Clark Air Base in Pampanga Province at approximately 500 feet above sea level. These specimens were provisionally identified, and later confirmed, as *edwardsi*. Since the first discovery of *edwardsi* in Luzon, further attempts were made to collect associated adult males and immature stages. The presence of this species on the island was not immediately reported. Mosquito light trap collections used for surveillance purposes at Clark Air Base in October and December 1978 yielded two more *edwardsi* females.

This species was first described by Barraud (1923, 1924, 1934) from India. Later, it was reported by Carter and Wijesundara (1948) to be present in Sri Lanka (Ceylon). Peters and Christian (1963) mentioned *Cx edwardsi* collections from New Jersey light traps at Minj, some 5,140 feet above sea level in the Western Highland District, Territory of Papua-New Guinea. This mosquito was synonymized by Bram (1967) with *barraudi* but was recently resurrected and treated as a different species by Sirivanakarn (1976). Marka (1971), who did not accept the synonymy proposed by Bram (1967), pointed

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out the differences between the larva of *barraudi* from India and Thailand as described and figured by Barraud (1934) and Bram (1967) and the larva of *edwardsi* from Minj, Papua-New Guinea and Queensland, Australia with further note that the Sri Lanka larva as described and figured for *edwardsi* by Carter and Wijesundara (1948) may or may not represent a third species in the complex. Pending further study of the larva, the females collected from the Philippines are here identified with *edwardsi*.

Both *barraudi* and *edwardsi* adult females exhibit a distinct middle pale ring on the proboscis, dark wings, abdominal terga II-VI with only basal pale bands, and predominantly brown erect scales on the vertex. The two species differ from one another in the continuity of the pale stipe that runs along the anterior surface of the mid femur. In *edwardsi*, this stripe is complete and well defined from base to apex, while in *barraudi* it is interrupted by dark scales at about the middle.

Specimens Studied: Camp John Hay, Baguio City - 1 ♀, from Clark Air Base, Pampanga Province - 3 ♀♀. This record represents the currently known distribution of *edwardsi* in the Philippines. Specimens will be deposited in the U. S. National Museum.

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