

A Clarification of the Format Used in the Collection Records Series  
of the Project "Mosquitoes of Middle America"

In the first publication of the Collection Records series of the project "Mosquitoes of Middle America" (Belkin and Heinemann 1973:201), we gave the format used for the entire series (a total of 14 separate publications to date: Belkin and Heinemann 1973, 1975a, 1975b, 1976a, 1976b, 1976c; Heinemann and Belkin 1977a, 1977b, 1977c, 1978a, 1978b, 1978c, 1979; Heinemann, Aitken and Belkin 1980). We stated that the locality for each collection is given in the following manner: "Major political subdivision of country, *nearest town* [italics added], specific locality (Universal Transverse Mercator Grid coordinates), approximate elevation above sea level in meters . . ." We did not repeat this information in the subsequent 13 papers of the series, and consequently the localities of some collections have been misinterpreted in that the "nearest town" has been taken to be the actual locality. This is most unfortunate in those cases in which the "nearest town" is some distance (up to 50km or more) from the actual collection site. Confusion has also arisen in those cases in which the "nearest town" is in a different political division than the actual collection site; in this case it can appear that the collection locality has been placed in the wrong political division. If there is any question about the actual collection site of a particular lot, the Locality Index should be consulted.

An example of the type of confusion that can arise is found in Sirivanakarn and Belkin (1980:15, figs. 1-4), where the type locality of the new species *Culex pedroi* (PA 1126) is given as "Chilibre, Rio Chagres, about 0.5km S of Juan Mina . . . Canal Zone" and on the figures as "Canal Zone, Chilibre, Rio Chagres." In this case Chilibre is the nearest town, not the collection locality as it appears to be as it is stated above. In fact, Chilibre is not even in the Canal Zone, but in the province of Panama. The type locality should have been given as "Juan Mina (Rio Chagres 0.5km S of)," and Chilibre should not be mentioned at all or should be very clearly labelled as "nearest town."

A few additional clarifications are as follows:

- (1) Unless otherwise specified, distances and directions are taken from maps, and are only very approximate (example: "Sinnamary, about 35km S of . . ."). If distances are by road it is clearly stated so (example: "Le Gallion, about 1km W of on Route du Gallion").
- (2) In virtually all cases, elevations are determined from the maps available to us, and thus are no more accurate than the maps and our knowledge of the exact collection site. Since both variables are often in error to a considerable degree, our elevations are also often in error. This is especially true when the collections were made in mountainous terrain.
- (3) In most cases the most accurate designation of the collection sites is the Universal Transverse Mercator grid coordinates. Four digits designates a specific square one kilometer on a side, and 6 digits a square 100 meters on a side. If no UTM grid coordinates are given, either the collections site was not sufficiently known, or maps with UTM grid markings were not available to us. In the latter case, we have used longitude and latitude, and distance and direction from major towns and cities to designate collection sites.
- (4) For Collection Records series papers 7-14, any locality name in quotation marks indicates that we were not able to find that name used in that particular sense on our maps or in our gazetteers, and thus we were not able to confirm its spelling or correct usage. For the earlier papers in the series (Collection Records 1-6) we did not use this convention.

## References Cited

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