

Aedes (Stegomyia) cretinus Edwards 1921

(Diptera: Culicidae)

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ABSTRACT. Two female specimens were recently received for identification from Turkey which are referable to *Aedes cretinus* Edwards. No good specimen of this species has ever been available for description and a formal description of the female is hereby prepared. Specimens from Cyprus are also a new distribution record.

INTRODUCTION

Edwards (1921) described *Aedes cretinus* from two incomplete females collected in Crete. Mattingly (1954) redescribed the species from seven old and incomplete adults, one of the above Crete specimens and six specimens collected on the Georgian coast of the Black Sea, presented to the British Museum (Natural History) by the Hamburg Tropical Institute. The latter were originally called *Aedes lindtropi* Shingarev, which is now a synonym of *cretinus*. I have examined six of these at the British Museum (Natural History), where no further specimens have been acquired. In the absence of an undescribed species, I believe the two Turkish specimens sent in recently for identification to be *Aedes cretinus*, providing a new distribution record for this apparently uncommon species. One of these specimens is in a very good condition except for some missing legs. Gutsevich et al. (1974) wrote on this species but had little to add, except to say that the last specimens were collected in 1939 in Sukhumi, Georgia.

DESCRIPTION

Aedes (Stegomyia) cretinus Edwards 1921; description of female based on two specimens from Turkey.

Head. Proboscis completely dark scaled, about same length as fore femur. Palpus about 0.25 length of proboscis, white-scaled dorsally on about apical half and dark-scaled ventrally. Torus with white scales anteriorly. Clypeus bare. Vertex with a broad median stripe of broad white scales, a lateral stripe of broad white scales and extensive broad white scaling below; all dark scales broad and flat. Narrow white scales at eye margin at each side of median stripe; erect forked scales dark. *Thorax.* Scutum with narrow dark scales; a median longitudinal stripe of narrow white scales extends from the anterior margin to the beginning of the prescutellar bare space, where it forks

to end just before the margin of the scutellum. This is a uniformly slender line widening slightly towards the anterior margin. Posterior dorsocentral white lines present extending from just posterior to the level of the scutal angle to near the lateral lobes of the scutellum; these are narrow and composed of narrow white scales. Scutum bordered with lateral prescutal line of narrow white scales which reaches the scutal angle, where after a minute break continues with broad white scales extending over the supraalar area, terminating with a few narrow white scales just before the margin of the lateral lobes of the scutellum. Scutellum with broad white scales on all lobes and with a small apical area of dark scales on the mid lobe. Anterior and posterior pronotum largely covered with broad white scales. Paratergite with broad white scales. Patches of broad white scales, some very dense as if with one layer above another, on propleuron, proepimeron, postspiracular area among PS setae, subspiracular area, upper and lower sternopleuron - extending onto mesomeron, mesepimeron - large upper patch joined to smaller lower patch. *Wing.* Scales dark except for conspicuous basal spot of white scales on costa. *Halter.* Basal half pale, apical half dark with a few terminal white scales. *Legs.* Fore femur anteriorly with sparse white scales on basal 0.50 and with small white knee-spot, posteriorly all white, white scales fewer on apical 0.25. Fore tibia all dark. Fore tarsomere 1 with basal 0.20 white, 2 with basal 0.35 white, 3-5 all dark. Mid femur anteriorly dark except for a few white scales at base and conspicuous white knee-spot, posteriorly with white scales on basal 0.80. Mid tibia all dark. Mid tarsomere 1 with basal 0.20 white, 2 with basal 0.40 white, 3-5 all dark. Hind femur anteriorly white on basal 0.80 and with conspicuous white knee-spot, posteriorly white on basal 0.50. Hind tibia all dark. Hind tarsomere 1 with basal 0.33 white, 2 with basal 0.40 white, 3 with basal 0.55 white, 4 white with extreme tip dark, 5 all white. *Abdomen.* Segment I with white scales covering laterotergite, narrow basal white bands on terga II-VII, not connected to broad lateral white patches; sterna II-IV largely covered with white scales, V-VII with basal white bands.

DISCUSSION

Edwards' and Mattingly's descriptions, "pair of small round spots of white scales in the middle of the mesonotum" and "two small spots of narrow whitish scales present a short distance behind the scutal angles halfway between the median line and the edges of the scutum" are the remains of a distinctive pair of posterior dorsocentral lines, which is hereby illustrated (Fig. 1). Mattingly described hind tarsomere 4 as being pale above on about the basal 4/5, more narrowly pale below. That is the upside-down view. Edwards' description: "darkened only at the extreme tip" is correct, with a little more dark scaling ventrally. The 5th tarsomere is completely white-scaled with a dark claw.

The scutellum has broad white scales on all lobes with only two or three dark scales seen at the apex of the mid lobe on the better of the Turkish specimens. Note on the illustration this darkened apex and the dark basal areas; this is the integument bare of scales, where white and dark scales have been rubbed off. As noted below one of the specimens from Cyprus has a distinct apical patch of dark scales on the mid lobe.

Notes on the two specimens from Turkey: Both were collected and sent in by Dr. Izzet Sahin, who is working on Bancroftian filariasis and its vectors in the south coast of Turkey (Antalya - Alanya). Each is glued to a piece of celluloid, ventral surface of the thorax down, this and the underside of one head being obliterated. Both abdomens are in good condition dorsal and ventral, also the pleurae and heads (except one ventrally) and the wings. The better specimen, much of which is described above, is more or less completely scaled and both hind legs are complete. Missing are tarsomeres 2-5 of left foreleg, tibia and tarsus of left mid leg and all of right mid leg. The poorer specimen has most scales of the scutum rubbed off, most scales of the pleurae present and more easily seen than on the other specimen (these on description above). Missing are the left foreleg, many scales of the left mid leg, tarsomeres 3 1/2-5 of left hind leg, all of right foreleg, tarsus of right mid leg and tarsomeres 3-5 of right hind leg.

Specimens labelled as follows:

Poorer specimen: 134; Antalya
Gasipasa "Gasipasha"
August 23, 1979
at sea level
Dr. Sahin

Better specimen: 139; Antalya
Corus, Gasipasa
June 8, 1980
250 m. altitude
Dr. Sahin

With the completion of the above study, I was reminded of specimens I had noted a year ago when rearranging the Culicine collection of this Department. Two "odd" pinned females among the *Aedes (Ochlerotatus) pulchritarsis* material I tentatively determined as being *Aedes cretinus*. Now I see that they are indeed *cretinus*, and from another new locality, Cyprus. The scutal scales are mostly rubbed off, otherwise the condition is good, including all the legs. One of these shows a distinct apical patch of dark scales on the mid lobe of the scutellum. The data for both read: Nicosia, Cyprus, G. Stavrides, 29/7/49.

The known distribution of *Aedes cretinus* is now Cyprus; Greece, Crete, Macedonia; U. S. S. R., Georgia; and Turkey, Antalya. Little appears to be known about its biology in these areas although Gutsevich et al. (1974) record adults biting in a bamboo grove and larvae in tree holes together with larvae of *Anopheles plumbeus*, *Aedes geniculatus* and *Orthopodomyia pulchripalpis*.

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AEDES (Stegomyia) CRETINUS Edwards

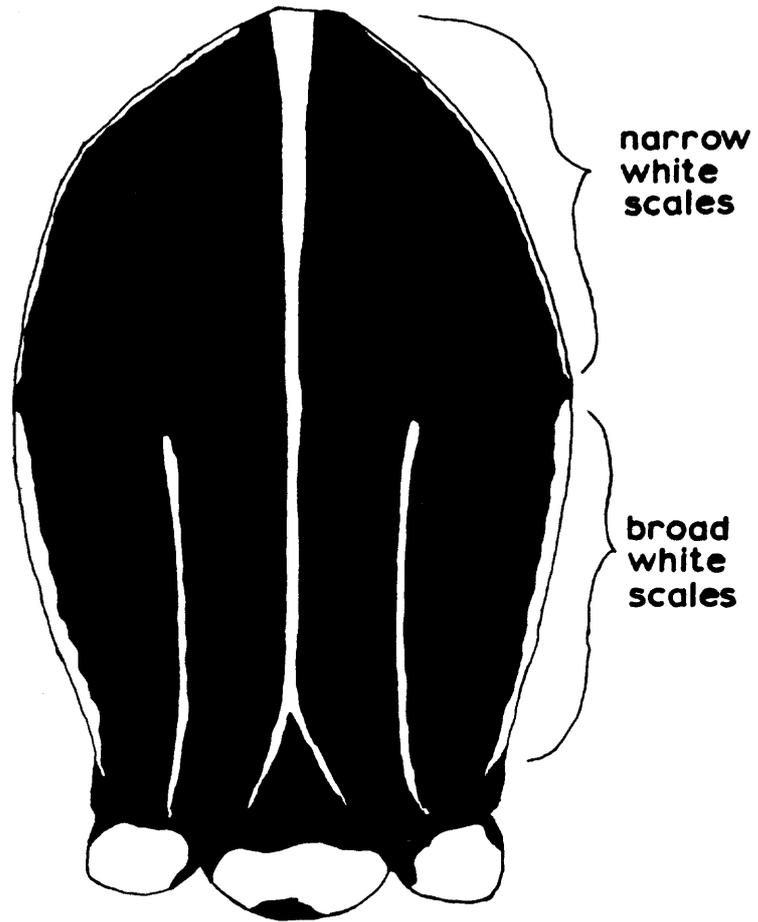


Fig. 1. Dorsal view of scutum