

Occurrence of *Aedes (Stegomyia) w-albus* in Sri Lanka

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**ABSTRACT.** The occurrence of *Aedes (Stegomyia) w-albus* (Theobald) in Sri Lanka is confirmed by the collection of male and female adult specimens in 1980 in the Udawattakele Forest Reserve in the Central Province, Kandy District.

Specimens of both sexes of adults collected during a mosquito field study at Udawattakele Forest Reserve, Sri Lanka, enable us to confirm the occurrence of *Aedes (Stegomyia) w-albus* (Theobald) in this country. A member of the *w-albus* group and subgroup of subgenus *Stegomyia*, this species was originally recorded from Colombo, Sri Lanka (then Ceylon), by James (1914a, b) and listed by Senior-White (1927) and Carter (1950). However, it is not listed from this country in recent reviews of the Oriental and SE Asian *Aedes (Stegomyia)* mosquitoes by Huang (1977, 1979), and Jayasekera and Chelliah (1981) have considered its record from Sri Lanka as doubtful. Evidently the original material identified as "*w-albus*" has been lost or destroyed, and no new specimens seem to have been collected until the present study.

**DISTRIBUTION.** Eighty-six specimens examined - 14 ♂, 58 ♀, 10 ♂ terminalia, 4 ♀ terminalia. SRI LANKA. Central Province, Kandy District, Udawattakele Forest Reserve (secondary rain forest, elevation 600 m.): II-1980 to IV-1981; Collectors, F. P. Amerasinghe and T. S. B. Alagoda. Three ♂, 5 ♀, 2 ♂ terminalia, 1 ♀ terminalia are deposited in the Entomology Division, Department of National Museums, Sri Lanka; 1 ♂, 2 ♀, 1 ♂ terminalia are deposited in the British Museum (Natural History); other specimens are in the collection of the senior author.

**BIOLOGY.** All adults were taken landing/biting on the collectors during a series of bait catches conducted in Udawattakele Forest between 0900 and 1800 hrs. Females were captured during all hours within this time span but the majority (57%) were taken between 1500 - 1800 hrs. Other man-biting *Stegomyia* mosquitoes taken at these catches included *Ae. albopictus* (Skuse), *Ae. krombeini* Huang, *Ae. novalbopictus* Barraud and *Ae. mediopunctatus* (Theobald). Despite regular collections from mosquito-breeding habitats in Udawattakele

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Forest (bamboo stumps, kitul-palm stumps, tree holes, ground pools), immatures of *Ae. w-albus* were not found.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors wish to thank Dr. Peter S. Cranston, Department of Entomology, British Museum (Natural History) for confirming the identity of this species. Field collections were funded by Grant No. RGB/80/3 of the National Science Council of Sri Lanka.

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