

Culex (Melanoconion) serratimarge (Diptera: Culicidae),
a new occurrence record from Bolivia ¹

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ABSTRACT. *Culex (Melanoconion) serratimarge* Root is reported from Bolivia for the first time.

A collection containing the immature stages of *Culex (Melanoconion) serratimarge* Root was made on 17 May 1982 in a large swamp-marshy depression in a forested area located 4 km southwest of the Mission at Rincón Del Tigre, Department of Santa Cruz, Province of Sandoval, Bolivia. The collection (number 50) also contained specimens of *Cx. (Mel.) idottus* Dyar and a species near *intrincatus* Brèthes. The latter were previously reported by Peyton et al. (1983). Specimens of *serratimarge* were not detected by these authors, primarily because their identifications of *Melanoconion* from a few collections were based on the examination of genitalia of only a small number of the available males. Species of *Melanoconion* were contained in 11 of 91 collections made in the Rincón Del Tigre area of Bolivia.

Recently, one of us (REH) had the occasion to dissect and examine additional male genitalia from the Bolivian collections in connection with the study of an undescribed species of *Melanoconion*. In doing so, a single male of *serratimarge* with associated pupal exuviae was discovered in collection number 50. Two females of this species were subsequently found in the same collection by comparison of the associated pupal exuviae. The specimens are without associated larval exuviae.

The original description of *serratimarge* by Root (1927) was based on a single male. The larval and pupal stages were later described by Foote (1954). The female has not been described. The species was previously reported from six neotropical countries, including Panama, Colombia, French Guiana, Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina (Knight and Stone 1977).

In view of the ever increasing number of viruses being discovered and associated with various species of the subgenus *Melanoconion* in South America (Calisher et al. 1982a,b), we believe it is important to make this record known at this time. Our knowledge of the number and distribution of species of this important group of mosquitoes in South America remains very incomplete.

¹ The views of the authors do not purport to reflect the position of the Department of the Army or the Department of Defense.

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