

Description of the Egg of *Culex (Melanoconion) caudelli*
Dyar and Knab (Diptera, Culicidae)¹

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ABSTRACT. The egg of *Culex (Melanoconion) caudelli* Dyar and Knab is described and illustrated.

INTRODUCTION

The present description is based on eggs of *Culex caudelli* obtained from a temporary colony established at the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre, Trinidad, W.I.

Adults of *C. caudelli* were collected in Trinidad No. 17 traps (Davies, 1971) baited with Swiss albino mice at the study area located in the Aripo-Wallerfield Forest, Trinidad, W.I. The immature stages of *C. caudelli* were found primarily in temporary ground pool habitats (Chadee, unpublished data).

In the laboratory the eggs were deposited singly, on the water's surface and on the moist surfaces on and above the water level. The eggs were reared and the adults identified. The nomenclature used in the description is that of Harbach and Knight (1978).

DESCRIPTION OF THE EGG

The egg of *Culex caudelli* measures 499-501 microns in length and approximately 186-188 microns in width at the broadest point. It is subfusiform in outline and circular in cross-section. The posterior end is sharply pointed; the anterior end is almost rounded (Fig. 1).

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The egg is characterized by the presence of darker posterior and anterior ends. The rest of the egg is light brown in color. The outer chorion is lightly sclerotized with relatively sparse, flat, circular tubercles varying in size over all regions of the egg with some distinctly larger ones on the posterior and anterior ends (Fig. 1). The pronounced anterior end bears a micropylar disc and collar which measures 16 microns across. There is no corolla present. Apical dehiscence is incomplete (Fig. 1).

Abbreviations (Harbach & Knight, 1978)

- Mi - Micropyle
- Mi C - Micropyle collar
- Mi D - Micropyle disc
- OCT - Outer choronic tubercles

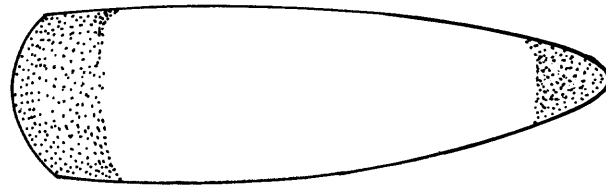
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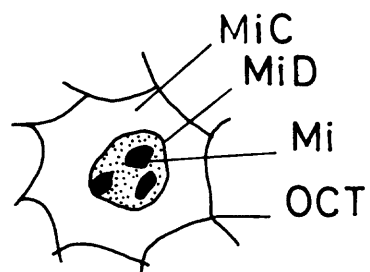
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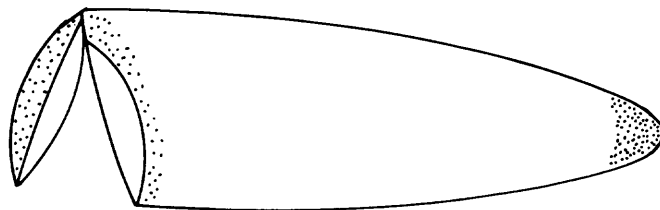
Fig1. Egg of *Culex (Melanoconion) caudelli*.



a



b



c

- a. Single egg.
 b. Micropylar disc and collar.
 c. Pattern of dehiscence.