

ORNITHODOROS TALAJE ON THE CALIFORNIA
MAINLAND

BY THOMAS H. G. AITKEN

University of California, Berkeley

While traveling in Southern California during the past spring, the writer collected specimens of what is believed to be the first actual record of *Ornithodoros talaje* (Guérin-Mèneville) on the California mainland. This species was described by Guérin-Mèneville(1) in 1849 from Guatemala. Banks(2) in his "Revision of the Ixodoidea, or Ticks, of the United States," reports examining specimens from Gum Cave, Citrus County, Florida; Brownsville, Texas, and San Clemente Island, California. It has also been reported from New York(3), Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Colorado, but is primarily a Mexican, Central and South American species.

The adult ticks, fortunately one male and one female, were discovered in the trunk at the rotted base of a Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia* Englm.) in the Mojave Desert, about one mile east of Palmdale, San Bernardino County (April 14, 1938). In hacking at the trunk, any signs of a rodent's nest that might have been present were destroyed; however a few bits of dried grass and brush as well as other debris were found, which might have been the remains of a nest.

The finding of this tick in the Mojave Desert is of interest in that it adds to the list of potential relapsing fever vectors in this state. *Ornithodoros hermsi* Wheeler, 1935, is the vector of California Relapsing Fever in the High Sierra(4), whereas *Ornithodoros talaje* is considered the principal agent in relapsing fever transmission in Mexico, Central America and northern South America. The third species which has been reported from California, *Ornithodoros turicata* (Duges 1876), is the arthropod vector in Kansas and Texas.

Determinations were made by Dr. Charles M. Wheeler, The George William Hooper Foundation for Medical Research, University of California.

Mr. D. E. Howell has recently informed the writer that on August 6, 1938, he collected what he determined as *Ornithodoros talaje* on the west slope of Mt. Diablo, Contra Costa County, at an approximate elevation of 2000 feet. The single

specimen, a last nymphal instar, was found at the side of a rodent hole. Mr. Howell's identification has been confirmed by Dr. R. A. Cooley, Rocky Mountain Laboratory, Hamilton, Montana.

LITERATURE CITED

1. Guérin-Mèneville, F. E., 1849. *Argas talaje* n. sp. *Revue et Mag. de Zool.*, (2) I, pp. 342-344.
2. Banks, N., 1908. A Revision of the Ixodoidea, or Ticks, of the United States. U. S. Dept. of Agric. Bureau of Entomology, Technical Series No. 15, 60 pp., 10 plates, Washington, D. C.
3. Matheson, R., 1931. Note on the tick *Ornithodoros talaje* (Guér.-Mèn.). *Parasitology*, Vol. 23, No. 2, 11 May.
4. Herms, W. B. and Wheeler, C. M., 1935. Tick Transmission of California Relapsing Fever. *Jl. Econ. Ent.*, Vol. 28, pp. 846-855, Dec.

TWO NEW AEDES RECORDS FOR CALIFORNIA

(Diptera, Culicidæ)

BY THOMAS H. G. AITKEN

University of California, Berkeley

On the 20th of June, 1937, while collecting in northeastern Shasta County, the writer captured several unusual-looking mosquitoes which have since been identified as *Aedes* (*Ochlerotatus*) *flavescens* (Müller) and *Aedes* (*Taeniorhynchus*) *nigromaculis* (Ludlow). Neither of these species have previously been reported from California.

Aedes flavescens (Müller) is distributed throughout the northern plains area of the United States and Canada, and has been recorded as far west as British Columbia and at Big Fork near Flathead Lake, Montana (Dyar, H. G. *The Mosquitoes of the United States*. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. Vol. 62, Art. 1, p. 74. 1922). Mail (*The Mosquitoes of Montana*. Montana Exp. Sta., Bull. 288, p. 30. 1934) states that the Big Fork record is doubtful, as it is the sole record west of the Divide, and furthermore the collection was made out of season, the mosquitoes being collected by E. Ricker, November 14, 1904. Mail suggests that Montana is the western boundary of the mid-continental range



Aitken, Thomas H. G. 1939. "Ornithodoros talaje on the California mainland."
The Pan-Pacific entomologist 15, 12–13.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/225850>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/237061>

Holding Institution

Pacific Coast Entomological Society

Sponsored by

IMLS LG-70-15-0138-15

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Pacific Coast Entomological Society

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.