

## NEW STATE RECORD FOR *CULISETA MORSITANS* IN COLORADO

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**ABSTRACT.** *Culiseta (Culicella) morsitans* is reported for the first time from Colorado. Collections from the Rocky Mountains in the northern part of the state extend the range of this species approximately 300 km south and east of previous records.

Seven larvae of *Culiseta (Culicella) morsitans* (Theobald) were collected at 3 sites in the Rocky Mountains of northern Colorado (Larimer County). Earlier literature indicated that this species has not previously been found in Colorado (Harmston and Lawson 1967; Darsie and Ward 1981, 1989; Ward and Darsie 1982).

On April 17, 1993, the authors collected one *Cs. morsitans* larva from a shaded pool (diam approximately 25 m) near the Fern Lake Trailhead (2,490 m), Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP). On June 1, 1993, 3 *Cs. morsitans* larvae were collected from a permanent pond (diam approximately 45 m) at the Pingree Park Campus (2,740 m) of Colorado State University. Three larvae were collected from an open swamp near Fall River at Alluvial Fan Park (2,600 m), RMNP, on June 16, 1993. Larvae collected at the Pingree Park Campus were captured by students attending the Field Ecology of Disease Vectors course at Colorado State University. Those collected at RMNP were captured as part of a research project conducted by the authors. The 3 collection sites were within 25 km of each other, but the RMNP sites are separated from the Pingree Park Campus by the Mummy Range (3,050–3,800 m). Larvae were collected using standard 350-ml white plastic dippers.

This species is common farther north of our collection area, with a distribution ranging from southern Alaska through the forested areas of Canada to Newfoundland, and in northern Europe (Darsie and Ward 1981). In the contiguous United States it is found in the northern tier of states as far south as northern Utah in the west and Kentucky in the east (Darsie and Ward 1981).

Two of the larvae were reared successfully to adult females. The specimens were identified by the authors. The larvae had setae typical of *Cs. morsitans*: seta 5-C with 5 or fewer branches,

seta 7-C with 8 or fewer branches, and ventral brush of 19–22 tufts (Darsie and Ward 1981). The adults lack postspiracular scales, and the abdominal tergites lack apical pale scales or bands. Voucher specimens (one adult female, one larva, and 2 4th-instar larval skins) have been deposited in the Gillette Insect Biodiversity Museum at Colorado State University.

The authors collected larvae of this species during the 1994 collecting season at Alluvial Fan Park (one larva on May 15) and Pingree Park (2 larvae on June 1).

This note extends the range of *Cs. morsitans* approximately 300 km farther south and east in the Rocky Mountains. The closest previous records of this species were in northern Utah (Darsie and Ward 1981) and Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming (Savage et al. 1994).

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