

SCIENTIFIC NOTES

NOTES ON MOSQUITO COLLECTIONS FROM UTILA, BAY ISLANDS, HONDURAS

D. SCOTT TAYLOR¹ AND RICHARD L. TURNER²

ABSTRACT. Fourteen species of mosquito were collected from Utila, Bay Islands, Honduras, during May 1996 and March 1997. Twelve species represent new records for the Bay Islands, and one species is a new record for Honduras.

KEY WORDS Caribbean Sea, Central America, *Deinocerites epitedeus*, Diptera, mangrove forests, tropical medicine

The mosquito fauna of Central America received considerable attention some years ago (Belkin et al. 1965, Heinemann and Belkin 1977, Clark-Gil and Darsie 1983), but there is only one recent collection to supplement these earlier lists (Ogata and Samayoa 1996). Although Heinemann and Belkin (1977) found at least 69 species in mainland Honduras, only *Aedes taeniorhynchus* (Wiedemann) was collected on an offshore island. A 1995 survey by the Honduran government reported *Aedes aegypti* (Linnaeus) from the Bay Islands (Honduras Region Sanitaria No. 6, unpublished report).

The Bay Islands are located 30–50 km off the north coast of Honduras in the Caribbean Sea. The 3 largest islands (Roatan, Utila, and Guanaja) are volcanic in origin, have low relief (maximal elevation 100 m), and are forested with pine savannahs, tropical dry forest, and dense mangrove swamps. The islands are relatively dry compared to the mountainous and wet coastal areas of the mainland, and there are few permanent sources of fresh water.

We collected immature and adult mosquitoes during two visits to Utila (16°05'N, 86°53'W) in May 1996 and March 1997. Our goal was to collect potential disease vectors, as both vivax malaria and dengue fever are indigenous to the island (D. and N. Jaynes, Utila Community Clinic, personal communication). Immatures were collected with larval dippers and aspirators from tree holes, crab holes, plant axils, artificial containers, and other sites, and adults were collected with Centers for Disease Control (CDC) light traps, sweep nets, and by aspiration from human and domestic animal biting collections. Twenty-one CDC light trap and 20 biting collections were made. A total of 14 species of mosquito were collected. One species, *Deinocerites epitedeus* Theobald, represents a new collection

record for Honduras. Two species of *Anopheles* were found on the island. The Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus* [Skuse]) was not found on Utila, although it has been recently reported from neighboring Guatemala (Ogata and Samayoa 1996). The following species were represented in the collections.

Aedes (Ochlerotatus) taeniorhynchus (Wiedemann): Immatures were not collected, but adults were biting frequently in forested areas, especially in the extensive mangrove swamps. Thirteen specimens were collected in CDC light traps.

Aedes (Stegomyia) aegypti (Linnaeus): Immatures were common in a variety of containers in the town of Utila (cemetery urns, tires, cisterns, planters). Adults were frequent in daytime biting collections in the town.

Anopheles (Anopheles) pseudopunctipennis Theobald: Many immatures were collected from containers and trash adjacent to a mangrove swamp. Larvae were reared to the adult stage.

Anopheles (Nyssorhynchus) albimanus Weidemann: Immatures were collected from containers and trash adjacent to a mangrove swamp. Larvae were reared to the adult stage. Nine females were collected in a CDC light trap.

Culex (Culex) coronator Dyar and Knab: Two females were collected in a CDC light trap.

Culex (Culex) nigripalpus Theobald: Immatures were common in wells and a variety of containers. Adults of both sexes were aspirated from walls of caves and tree holes and were collected with a sweep net inside wells. Many adult females were collected with CDC light traps, and 6 females were taken in biting collections.

Culex (Culex) quinquefasciatus Say: Many immatures were collected from containers. Two females were captured in CDC light traps.

Culex (Melanoconion) erraticus (Dyar and Knab): Two females were captured in CDC light traps.

Deinocerites cancer Theobald: Immatures were taken from crab holes (*Cardisoma guanhumi* and *Ucides cordatus*), and many adult females were

¹ Brevard Mosquito Control District, 2870 Greenbrooke Street, Valkaria, FL 32950.

² Department of Biological Sciences, Florida Institute of Technology, 150 West University Boulevard, Melbourne, FL 32901.

captured in CDC light traps. Twenty-nine adults were captured in biting collections.

Deinocerites epitedeus (Knab): Immatures were taken from crab holes, and adults were abundant in CDC light trap collections. A single female was captured in human biting collections, and another was captured as it fed on a pig. This is the first report of the presence of *De. epitedeus* in Honduras.

Haemagogus (Haemagogus) aeritinctus Galindo and Trapido: Eight immatures were collected from cavities in root buttresses of a *Ficus* tree.

Psorophora (Grabhamia) confinnis (Lynch-Arribalzaga): One female was captured in a CDC light trap.

Psorophora (Janthinosoma) ferox (Von Humbolt): One female was captured in a biting collection.

Wyeomyia (Wyeomyia) celaenocephala Dyar and Knab: Immatures were abundant in the leaf axils of airplants (*Tillandsia*) and orchids (*Brassavola*) in mangroves. Six females were captured in daytime biting collections in mangrove swamps.

Specimens of *De. epitedeus*, *De. cancer*, *An. albimanus*, and *Wy. celaenocephala* have been de-

posited in the Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Gainesville, FL.

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