

noted to "change color" while tasting the colored water. Usually the hurried activity of these insects eventually brought them into contact with the syrup-laden paper and they evidenced feeding of the syrup as did the others.

In the above observations it was also indicated that *C. riparius* does not confine its feeding activities to liquids only. When it was learned that *C. riparius* would feed on the syrup solution it was routinely provided as part of the rearing procedure. On several occasions the syrup was inadvertently allowed to completely crystallize on the cage walls. When this occurred, midges could be seen vigorously rubbing their mouthparts back and forth on the dried material in an apparent attempt to feed on the sugar.

Although no statistical data were taken, an increase in the longevity of the insects was noted and more fertile egg masses were deposited by the females when the midges were routinely fed the

syrup. This probably resulted from the longevity increase, in that it allowed more time for male-female contacts prior to the death of the individual insect.

It is suggested that feeding of other species of laboratory-reared Chironomidae might circumvent problems arising from high death rates and low fertility, and possibly aid in insecticidal studies.

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### USE OF ARTIFICIAL POOLS FOR DETERMINING PRESENCE, ABUNDANCE, AND OVIPOSITION PREFERENCES OF *CULEX NIGRIPALPUS* THEOBALD IN THE FIELD<sup>1</sup>

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*Culex (Culex) nigripalpus* Theobald was the most important vector of St. Louis encephalitis in the 1962 epidemic which occurred in the Tampa Bay area of Florida (Dow *et al.*, 1964; Chamberlain *et al.*, 1964). It has also been shown to transmit the disease endemically in Jamaica (Belle *et al.*, 1964). This mosquito occurs from southern United States to northern Brazil and in some of the Caribbean islands (King *et al.*, 1960). It is particularly abundant in Florida during late summer and fall (Provost, 1969).

A quick and inexpensive method was needed to demonstrate the presence and abundance of *nigripalpus* in relatively isolated woodland areas where possible control trials could be made by

inundative releases of chemosterilized specimens, and to supply field strains for introduction into laboratory colonies.

The well known use of ovitraps to discover the presence of *Aedes aegypti* suggested the possibility of supplying artificial oviposition sites for *nigripalpus*. Small pools were constructed by stapling black plastic (Visqueen®) cloth to wooden frames 30 inches long, 18 inches wide, and 3 inches deep. These were embedded in the soil so that the top of the frame was even with the ground surface. Placements of the pools were made in shady situations near large bodies of water which had failed to show larvae present in extensive dipping surveys.

Three pools were placed side by side in each of four different locations. At each location, one pool contained tap water alone, one contained hay infusion, and one contained water to which crushed Purina® hog supplement 40 percent had been added at about 8 g per gallon. The positions of the pools were changed randomly each week during a 10-week period from August 31 to November 5, 1971. Newly prepared solutions were supplied to each pool on Mondays and discarded the following Friday. Egg rafts were collected daily from Tuesday through Friday of each week. They were brought to the insectary and

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1702 rafts (73 percent of the 2,332 collected) were set up individually for hatching, rearing of larvae, and identification. The results were projected to the total number of egg rafts collected.

The presence and abundance of *C. nigripalpus* is shown by the following average numbers of egg rafts collected per day: *C. nigripalpus*—51.9; other *Culex* spp.—6.4; infertile—1.5. Oviposition preferences were indicated by averages of 10.5 for water alone, 9.0 for hay infusion, and 32.4 for water with hog supplement.

The pools supplied with hog supplement were more attractive for oviposition by *nigripalpus* ( $P < 0.1$  percent), while there was no significant difference in attraction to water alone as compared with the hay infusion ( $P > 10$  percent) by Friedman's Test.

Correlation between total numbers of egg rafts collected and female *Culex* (*Culex*) caught on the same nights in a light trap about one-half mile equidistant from the pool locations was not statistically significant by Spearman's correlation test ( $Z = 1.72$ ;  $P > 5$  percent). A total of 273 female *C. nigripalpus* were taken in the light trap during the testing period (average 7 females per trap

night, range 0–20, correlation not significant by Spearman's correlation test,  $P > 6$  percent).

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### REGIONAL DIRECTORS ANNOUNCEMENT: THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARASITOLOGY

"We would be obliged to you for publishing the following announcement in the forthcoming issue of your Journal, stating that Deutsche Gesellschaft für Parasitologie invites anyone interested in receiving further information to contact the Secretary General.

"On the occasion of the Second International Congress of Parasitology in Washington, D.C., in 1970 the World Federation of Parasitologists entrusted the organization of the Third International Congress of Parasitology (Third ICOPA) to Deutsche Gesellschaft für Parasitologie (DGP).

"We would like to inform you that the Third ICOPA will be held from August 25th to August 31st, 1974, in München, Kongress-Zentrum, Messengelände."

—The Congress Committee