

allow a slower forward speed. With the PTO at correct operating RPM, the lowest forward gear gives a ground speed that is still too high to allow cutting a full depth ditch on one pass. At present, we have to make at least 2 passes on each ditch to get maximum depth.

The major advantage of this unit is that it allows us to use 1 machine that can dig a ditch without leaving spoil piles and also level any existing spoil piles, essentially giving us a 2-in-1 machine. Theoretically, it should be capable of digging shallow ponds but this has not been tried. It is also considerably cheaper, both to purchase and operate, than the amphibious ditchers. This unit was purchased at the same time as an amphibious rotary ditcher and costs less than half as much.

This unit has suited the needs of our program by giving us more flexibility of operation and increasing the efficiency of ditch construction. Mosquito control districts with a need for similar equipment may benefit from our experience. Districts which require larger ditches than can be cut by the Dondi ditcher described herein are advised that larger ditchers of this type are available. However, they require higher horsepower ratings than provided by our tractor.

NUMBER OF EGGS PER MALE GIANT WATER BUG, *BELOSTOMA MICANTULUM* IN PARAGUAY¹

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The giant water bug, *Belostoma micantulum*, is a very common aquatic predator in the environs of Asunción, Paraguay. It is found in shallow water at the edges of lakes and ponds, at the borders of streams, and in temporary pools. Many of these sites are also occupied by larvae of mosquitoes, especially *Aedes*, *Psorophora*, and *Culex*. Since another species of belostomatid in the region, *B. elegans*, is known to eat culicid larvae (DeCarlo 1939), it seems

¹ Hemiptera: Belostomatidae. Thanks are given to Prof. Dr. Axel O. Bachmann, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina, for identifying the specimens, and to Peace Corps and the Instituto de Ciencias Básicas, Universidad Nacional de Asunción, Paraguay, for support.

likely that *B. micantulum* has an impact on populations of mosquitoes.

From 23 July 1979, to 13 April 1980, I collected 12 males of *B. micantulum* which had eggs attached to their hemelytra. All collections were made ca. 30 km from Asunción in Areguá, Departamento Central, Paraguay. Most of the specimens were collected by dipping near the shore or adjacent to aquatic vegetation. A mean of 52.3 eggs (S.D. = 18.43, range, 30 to 95) were found on each male. This is an indication of the number of eggs deposited by females at each oviposition.

References Cited

- DeCarlo, J. A. 1939. 1) Metamorfosis de *Belostoma elegans* Mayr—2) *Belostoma ellipticum* Latreille = *Belostoma impavidum* Torre Bueno. (Hemiptera-Belostomatidae). Revista de la Sociedad Entomológica Argentina, 10:231-234.

SUSCEPTIBILITY OF *Aedes aegypti* TO VARIOUS LEVELS OF HYDROGEN PEROXIDE

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As the result of favorable responses from testing with hydrogen peroxide in efficacy tests against the aquatic weed, coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*), testing was initiated to determine its effect on non-target organisms.

Reviews of the literature for ascertainment of prior testing with hydrogen peroxide against mosquitoes was fruitless. Quimby (1981) and Kay and Quimby (1981) demonstrated herbicidal efficacy with hydrogen peroxide in the suppression of coontail used alone and in combination with a chelated copper complex.

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