Mosquito Eggs XII
Further Notes on Genera Orthopodomyia and Mimomyia

P. F. Mattingly
Department of Entomology
British Museum (Natural History)
Cromwell Road, London, S. W. 7
England

Orthopodomyia

Through the kindness of Dr. Tom Zavortink I have been able to examine eggs of O. signifera (Coquillett), from Socorro, New Mexico, and O. kummi Edwards from Pearce, Arizona. These are both members of the Signifera Group but belong to different subgroups. From the comparatively close resemblance between the eggs of O. pulchripalpis (Rondani), also a member of the Signifera Group though again in a separate subgroup, and those of members of the Albipes and Wilsoni Groups[184] it seemed likely that these species would resemble one another, and O. pulchripalpis, very closely. This is in fact the case. In particular the lacunae in the lateral flange of both species are filled by a delicate tracery very much as figured for O. pulchripalpis in my previous paper. It seems possible that the absence of such tracery from the eggs of O. albipes (and probably O. wilsoni), if it is not an artifact, may be a distinguishing feature as between Sections Orthopodomyia and Bancroftia.

A further possible distinction is afforded by the reticular ornamentation of the deck which is strongly developed in all three species of Bancroftia, rudimentary in O. albipes, not seen in O. wilsoni (Fig. 1). Both O. signifera (Fig. 1a" and O. kummi (Fig. 1a" ") differ from O. pulchripalpis (Fig. 1a') in having the deck much narrower, completely spanned by about 5 reticular meshes as compared to 8-9. They also differ in having the small, irregular papillae with which the reticulum is ornamented larger and less numerous, being mainly restricted to the nodes. O. kummi differs from both species in having the internodal connections greatly thickened.

A partly detached apical cup of O. signifera is shown in Fig. 1b.

Mimomyia

In my previous paper in this series I stated that the reticulated appearance of the lower part of the egg of M. aurea (Leicester) was apparently contributed by sculpturing of the inner chorion. A very beautiful electron-scan photograph by Prof. Hinton shows this to be incorrect. The appearance results from thickenings of the outer chorion, mostly in the form of small closed rings (Fig. 2a). Apart from this the photograph agrees quite well with the appearance as seen by the light microscope. A general view of the ornamentation of this remarkable egg is shown in Fig. 2b.

Reference

184. Mattingly, P. F. 1970. Mosquito eggs XI. Genera Orthopodomyia and Mimomyia. Mosq. Syst. Newsletter. 2(4): 160-164.

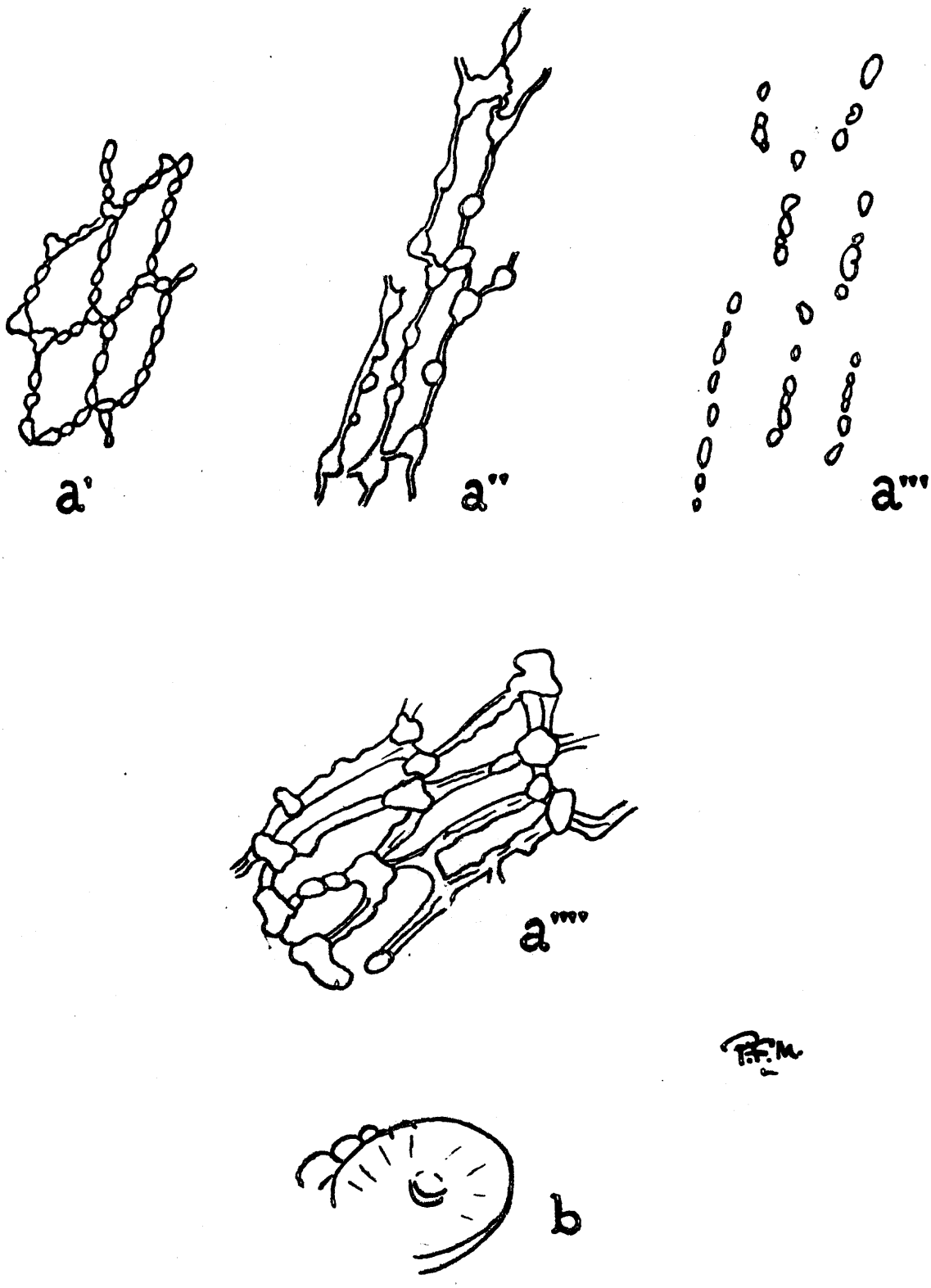

Fig. 1. Details of eggs of Orthopodomyia spp. a. Deck chorion. a' O. pulchripalpis, a" O. signifera, a"' O. albipes, a"" O. kummi, b. Partly detached apical cup. O. signifera.

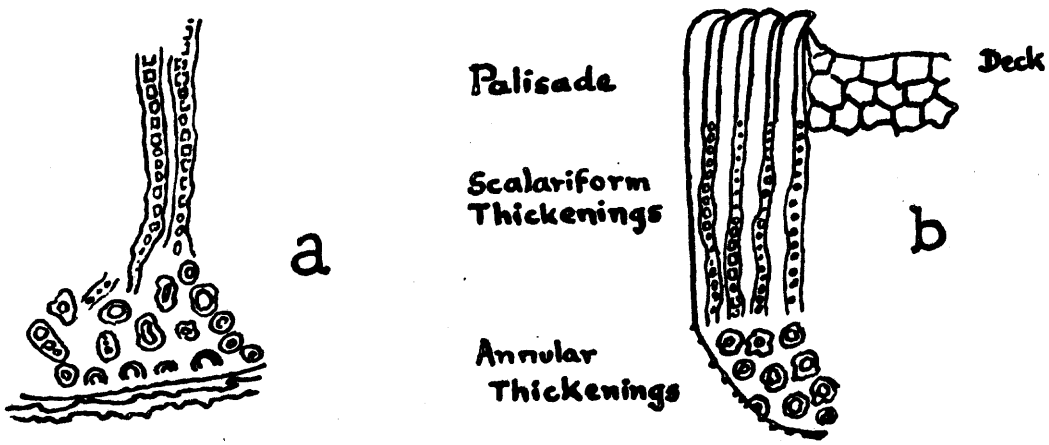

Fig. 2. Chorionic ornamentation, genus Mimomyia. a. Lateral view of lower surface of egg, b. Oblique transverse view (diagrammatic).