

Mosquito Eggs XXII

Eggs of Two Species of Haemagogus Williston

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In a previous paper in this series³²² I reviewed existing knowledge of egg physiology and oviposition behaviour in this genus and noted that the eggs themselves had never been described. Now, thanks to the kindness of Dr. Hal Arnell and Dr. Melvin Boreham, I am able to describe and figure the eggs of two species belonging to different subgenera. The former supplied eggs, provisionally ascribed to H. (Stegoconops) spegazzinii from El Danubio near Villavicencio, Colombia and the latter eggs of H. (Haemagogus) lucifer from Mojinga Swamp, Panama Canal Zone. Descriptions follow.

Subgenus Stegoconops LutzH. ? spegazzinii Brèthes

The eggs of this species (Fig. 1) resemble those of Heizmannia indica (Theo.) in having the upper (ventral) and lateral surfaces covered by a strongly sclerotized inner chorionic reticulum. This is, however, much more strongly developed in the present species, being matched in this respect, in my experience, only by some Aedes (Finlaya) spp. From these, as from Heizmannia, it differs in having the translucent outer chorionic papillae so poorly developed as to be scarcely visible as such even in lateral view (Fig. 1a). It also differs from Heizmannia, and from all Aedes so far seen by me, in having a conspicuous sclerotized collar inside the apical cup formed from outer chorion which is found in both those genera (Fig. 1b). The shape of the egg varies with aspect from almost cylindrical, tapering abruptly at both ends, to subconical with the anterior end broader and the remainder tapering gradually towards the posterior end. The general colour is dark brown. In plane view the extreme anterior end is seen to be ornamented with a small, sclerotized, hexagonal disc. Round this is a clear space bordered by partly fused sclerotized plates which form the collar (Fig. 1c). No micropyle is visible. The dorsal surface adheres to the substrate by means of a thick glue. Hatching is by oblique apical dehiscence (Fig. 1d). The detached apical cap is completely encircled by strongly sclerotized reticulated inner chorion. Posterior to the line of dehiscence the lower (dorsal) surface lacks this reticulum.

Subgenus Haemagogus WillistonH. lucifer (Howard, Dyar & Knab)

The eggs of this species resemble those of H. ? spegazzinii closely in general shape and ornamentation but differ in having the inner chorionic reticulum less strongly sclerotized. As a corollary

the apical collar is absent so that the small sclerotized disc at the extreme tip can be clearly seen in lateral view as, apparently, can the micropyle (Fig. 2a). Over the main body of the egg there is a tendency for thickening of nodal points of the reticulum, giving a characteristic appearance (Fig. 2b). The outer chorionic papillae appear to be more elaborately sculptured but the outer chorion is very strongly attached to the inner and I was unable to detach any for detailed examination.

REFERENCES

322. Mattingly, P. F. 1971. Mosquito eggs XV. Genera Heizmannia Ludlow and Haemagogus Williston. Mosq. Systematics 3(4): 197-201.

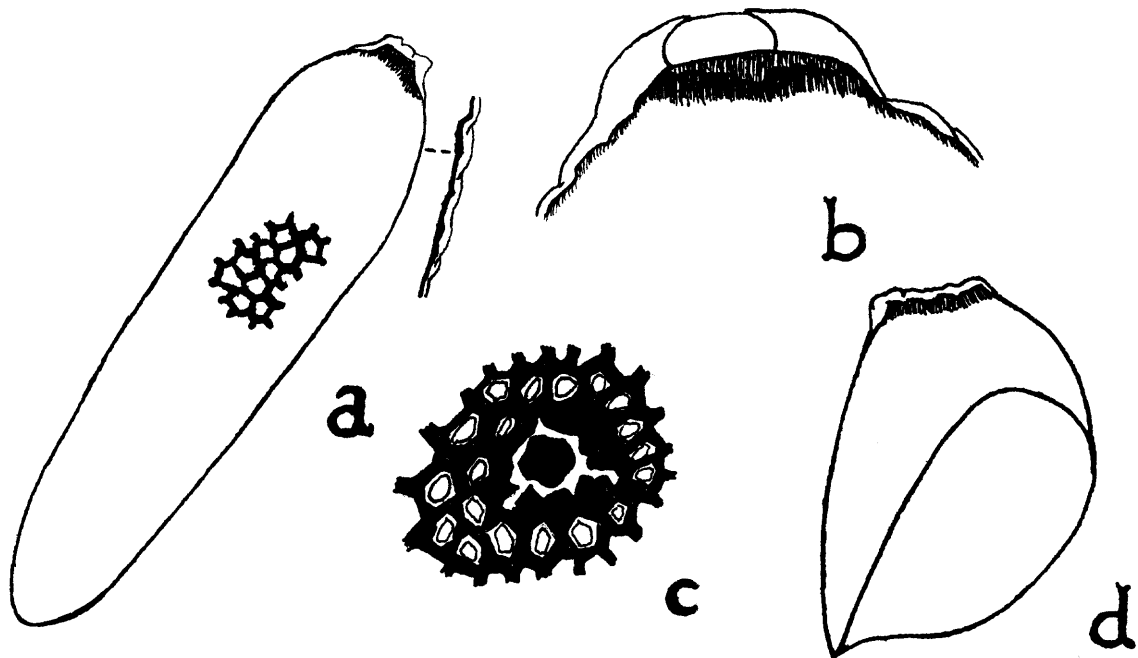


Fig. 1. Haemagogus (?) spegazzinii. a. Whole egg, b. Detail of apical cup and collar, c. Anterior tip in plane view, d. Detached apical cap from hatched egg.

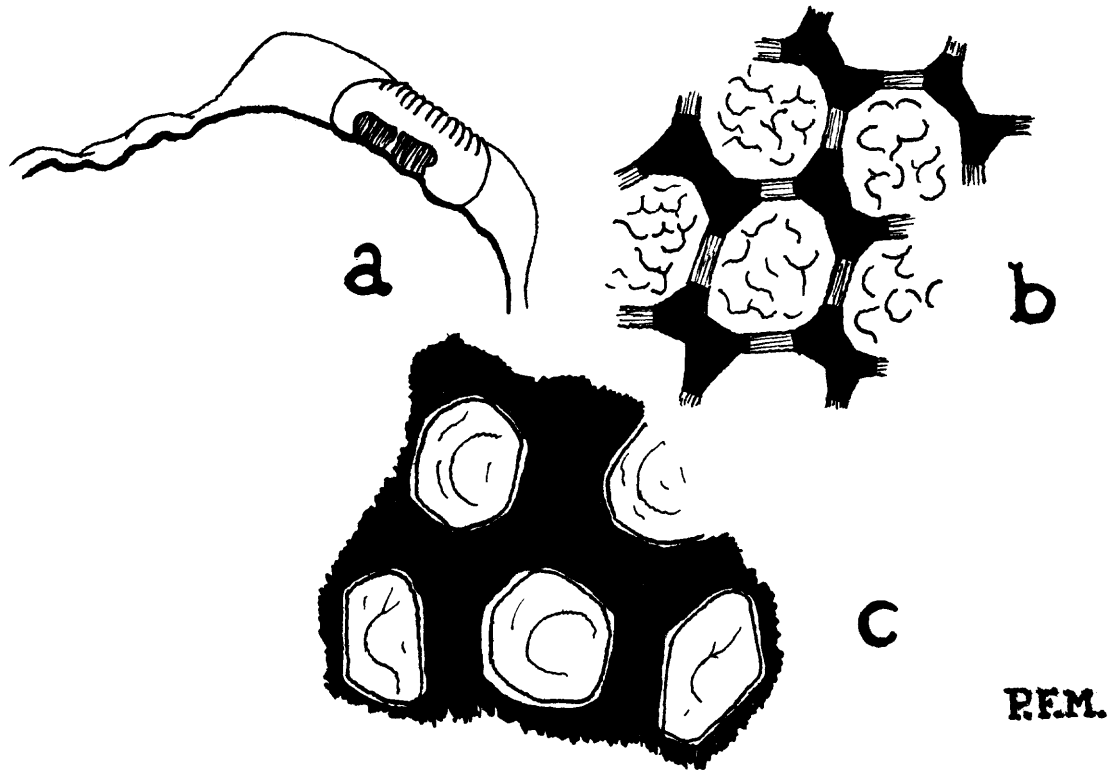


Fig. 2. Haemagogus lucifer. a. Apex of egg, b. Detail of inner chorionic reticulum, c. Corresponding portion of reticulum of H.? spegazzinii for comparison.