

A Note on *Anopheles (Anopheles) aberrans* Harrison and Scanlon

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ABSTRACT. Some preserved larval specimens of *Anopheles aberrans* from peninsular Malaysia have been found. What appears to be an additional character for separating the larvae of this species from those of *An. bengalensis* Puri is recorded.

Harrison and Scanlon (1975) described a new species in the *Anopheles aitkenii* group in Thailand. They named it *aberrans* because many of the adults had abdominal segments IV and V much paler than the other segments, an unusual character. In the limited time available they searched for specimens of *aberrans* from outside Thailand, and among a series of 10 slides of larval skins from peninsular Malaysia in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), they found 4 which appeared to be *aberrans*. This series had been collected by H. P. Hacker and presented to the Museum in 1920.

I re-examined Hacker's larvae and confirmed that 3 of them, numbers 482.E10, 483.D7 and 483.D8, are *aberrans*. The adults of two of the three (♂ 482.E10, ♀ 483.D7) have abdominal segments IV and V markedly pale. The other 7 specimens are *An. bengalensis* with which *aberrans* has previously been confused.

Some whole larvae of '*aitkenii*' in spirit from Hacker's collection were mounted. Among 10 4th stage larvae, two were *aberrans* and 8 *bengalensis*.

In a series of 12 larval slides in the Department of Entomology of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, collected in Malaya by C. Strickland about 1915, 3 were *aberrans* and 9 *bengalensis*.

This makes a total of 8 larvae of *aberrans* from peninsular Malaysia, three of them with corresponding adults, but no pupae. There are no data on the labels to indicate where on the Peninsula Strickland and Hacker collected their specimens. But both made collections in the Ulu Gombak area, the forested hills of the main range east of Kuala Lumpur, so it seems quite likely that the specimens came from this area.

Cheong and Mahadevan (1978) have already confirmed the presence of *aberrans* in peninsular Malaysia. They examined adults of the *aitkenii* group in their collection in Kuala Lumpur and among 193 specimens found two (1♂, 1♀) with pale abdominal bands, collected in 1949 at Fraser's Hill (1300 metres), Selangor State.

Harrison and Scanlon found several setal differences between larvae of *aberrans* and *bengalensis*; in particular the ventral seta 11-II is long and

simple in *aberrans*, but forked or branched in *bengalensis*. In the course of examining this character I noted that the nearby seta 12-II follows the pattern of 11-II, being simple in *aberrans* (24 setae examined) and with 2-4 branches in *bengalensis* (37 examined). However, B. A. Harrison informs me that larvae of *bengalensis* from Thailand sometimes have 12-II simple.

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References

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