Some mosquitoes (Culicidae) and other biting flies from Hinchinbrook Island. Qd. Nat. 22:51-52

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Eurema hecabe phoebe (Butler), (3).
Delias argentea argentea (Fabricius), (3).
D. myasis myasis (Fabricius), (3).
Danaus plexippus plexippus (Linnaeus), (3).
D. chryippus petilia (Stoll), (3).
D. hamatus hamatus (W. S. Macleay), (3).
Euploea core corina (W. S. Macleay), (3).
E. tulliolus tulliolus (Fabricius), (3).
Melanitis leda bankia (Fabricius) — winter form, (3).
Hypocysta irius (Fabricius), (3).
H. adianto adianto (Hubner), (3).
Polyura pyrrhus sempronius (Fabricius), (3).
Hypolimnas allmena lamaria Frischrofer, (1).
Cupha prosope prosope (Fabricius), (1).
Aceria andromacha andromacha (Fabricius), (3).
Prosofa dubiosa dubiosa (Sempere), (2).
Nacadauna biocolata biocolata (C. & R. Felder), (2).
Lampides boeticus (Linnaeus), (3).
Euchrysops eneus eneus Waterhouse & Lyell, (2).
Zizina otis labradus (Godart), (2).

Acknowledgement

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REFERENCES


SOME MOSQUITOES (CULICIDAE) AND OTHER BITING FLIES FROM HINCHINBROOK ISLAND

By ELIZABETH N. MARKS

Little is known of the insect fauna of Hinchinbrook Island, a large mountainous national park close to the mainland south of Cardwell. With permission from the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, insects and other terrestrial arthropods were collected during the Queensland Naturalists’ Club excursion to the Little Ramsay Bay area (18° 19’ S, 146° 18’ E), 11-19 August 1975. Biting flies are recorded here and the balance of the collection is reported on by G. B. Monteith (Qd Nat. 22 (1-3) p. 53.

Numbers of biting insects were low, due in part to the time of year, in part to the camp site selected, and in part to the rocky, exposed nature of much of the eastern side of the island. Only small areas of light rainforest were visited. A much greater diversity of species is likely to occur in the rich tropical rainforest on the western side of the island.

I am grateful to Club members who assisted me in collecting and to Dr E.J. Reye, Mr D.M. Hunter, and Dr I. M. Mackerras for identifying respectively the Ceratopogonidae, Simulidae and Tabanidae.

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CULICIDAE (Mosquitoes)

The eight species taken appear to be the first recorded from the island. Aedes vigilax (Skuse), Aedes notoscriptus (Skuse) and Aedes kochi (Donitz) were biting in small numbers. Larvae were collected in three types of habitat. (i) Granite headlands from the south end of Ramsay Bay to Agnes Island: Brackish rock pools, well above high tide, filled by rain and seawater, some without vegetation, others with grass along a sandy edge. Ae. vigilax was found in seven pools, associated in two with Culex sitiens Wiedemann. This unusual breeding place is obviously an important one for Ae. vigilax on this part of the island. It breeds in similar pools at Bowen and on Magnetic Island and it would be interesting to study the oviposition sites and hatching stimulus which must differ from those in the usual salt marsh breeding places.

(ii) The tidal estuary of a creek at the south end of Little Ramsay Bay: Treeholes near the landward margin of the mangroves. A large hole (holding about 800 ml of water) in a Looking Glass mangrove (Heritiera littoralis) yielded Tripteroides quaestorius (Taylor), Ae. notoscriptus and an Aedes (Macleaya) "sp. No. 76" larva infected with an internal parasite, Coelomomyces sp. Ae. notoscriptus and Ae. "sp. No. 76" were breeding in a large paperbark teatree (Melaleuca sp.) and Ae. "sp. No. 76" in a 5 cm diameter hole in a small unidentified tree. This general habitat was reminiscent of the Townsville Common where the same mosquito species occur. Coelomomyces macleayi Laird was described from a Macleaya larva from Palm Island and the Hinchinbrook parasite has been sent to Dr J. S. Pillai for study.

(iii) Along the margins of the rocky streams flowing into the north and south ends of Little Ramsay Bay: Rock pools in the stream bed and on top of a boulder in the forest; holes in trees along the banks and in adjacent light rainforest. Ae. notoscriptus was common in rock pools and tree holes. Aedes mackerras Taylor was found in two rock pools and (by J. Rogers) at 600m altitude on Mt Bowen, in a hole in the base of a rainforest tree beside the creek; this species is known only from north Queensland, south to Mt Elliot. Tp. quaestorius occurred in two treeholes; in June 1973 this species was biting indoors and in the bush on Bedarra Island north of Hinchinbrook.

The predacious larvae of Culex halifaxii Theobald were found in one rock pool.

CERATOPOGONIDAE (Biting midges)

Culicoides marmoreatus (Skuse), Culicoides molestus (Skuse) and Culicoides subimmaculatus Lee & Reye were biting near mangroves and Lasiohelea ?townsvilleae (Taylor) in a wooded site.

SIMULIIDAE (Blackflies)

Simulium clathrinum Mackerras & Mackerras larvae were found in a small flowing stream at the south end of Little Ramsay Bay; this species is known from north of Cairns to south of the Qld-N.S.W. border.

TABANIDAE (March flies)

Sappia (Pseudoscione) neocencolor Mackerras was common biting. This brown species with blotty wings and shining brown unbande abdomen is recorded from north of Cairns south to Mt Spec.

Dasypodius titurus (Ricardo). One specimen was taken of this grey species with clear wings and grey-banded abdomen, which occurs along the east coast from Palm Island south to the Hawkesbury River, NSW.