

AN OBSERVATION OF MOSQUITOES BITING AN ECHIDNA

By A. L. DYCE

Division of Animal Health, C.S.I.R.O., McMaster Laboratory, Glebe, N.S.W.

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Current knowledge of host relationships of Australian mosquitoes principally concerns introduced animals and man, with only limited data on native hosts (Lee, Clinton and O'Gower 1954; Dyce and Lee 1962). Neither natural nor experimental feeding on monotremes by winged blood-sucking insects has previously been reported and, with the possible exception of a *Dipetalonema* sp. (Mackerras 1962, p. 429), no mosquito-borne parasite or disease likely to be mosquito-borne has been recorded from the echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus* (Shaw and Nodder)).

On 2nd August, 1963, at about 2 p.m. an adult echidna was exposed in the field to attack by the mosquito *Aedes (Ochlerotatus) theobaldi* (Taylor) at a site nine miles S.E. from Moree, New South Wales. Weather conditions at the time were calm, clear and mild. Mosquitoes in light density were attacking the observers in an open stand of timber dominated by humble box (*Eucalyptus populifolia* Hooker). The echidna, held by one of its hind feet, was attacked instantly on exposure. Mosquitoes alighted on the spines and coarse pile, rapidly made their way towards the head and feet and commenced to feed. One mosquito fed from the cloacal region. Exploratory probing was minimal and engorgement to repletion was quite rapid and normal for the species concerned. As many as seven mosquitoes were observed feeding at the one time on the free hind foot of the echidna and a sample of them was collected for identification.

A. theobaldi is a species well known for its vigorous feeding attacks on man and domestic animals and its apparent liking for any available blood source. Acceptance of echidna was therefore expected.

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RECORDS OF PROTOZOAN PARASITES FROM INSECT PESTS OF STORED PRODUCTS IN QUEENSLAND

By J. H. D. MARTIN and B. R. CHAMP

Department of Primary Industries, Queensland

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Order SCHIZOGREGARINA, Family Ophryocystidae

Mattesia dispersa Naville 1930

QUEENSLAND: *Cadra cautella* Walker 1863 (Lepidoptera: Phycitidae)—ex larvae from nut-in-shell peanuts, Kingaroy, 9.iv.63, 18.vi.63, 27.vi.63, 9.vii.63, 14.x.63; Atherton, 16.vii.63; Rockhampton, 16.vii.63, 13.xii.63; *Anagasta kuehniella* (Zeller 1879) (Lepidoptera: Phycitidae)—ex larvae from bran, ground barley, maize meal, pollard, poultry mash mix, soybean flour, Brisbane, 26.vi.63, 29.vii.63, 14.x.63, 28.xi.63; ex larvae from nut-in-shell peanuts and peanut trash, Rockhampton, 13.xii.63; ex *Adelina mesnili* infected larvae from pollard and ground sorghum, Brisbane, 28.xi.63; *Plodia interpunctella* (Hübner [1810]-[1813]) (Lepidoptera: Phycitidae)—ex larvae from nut-in-shell peanuts, Kingaroy, 9.iv.63, 18.vi.63, 27.vi.63, 9.vii.63, 7.viii.63.

Farinocystis tribolii Weiser 1953

QUEENSLAND: *Tribolium castaneum* Herbst. 1797 (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae)—ex larvae from whole meal flour cultures, Brisbane, 4.xi.63, cultures originally from nut-in-shell peanuts, Kingaroy, 4.v.63.

Order COCCIDIA, Family Adeleidae

Adelina mesnili (Perez 1899)

QUEENSLAND: *Anagasta kuehniella* (Zeller 1879) (Lepidoptera: Phycitidae)—ex larvae from bran, ground barley, maize meal, pollard, soybean flour, Brisbane, 26.vi.63, 29.viii.63, 14.x.63, 28.xi.63; ex larvae with *M. dispersa* as above.

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NOTES ON THE HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION OF *VALLERIOLA WILSONAE* DRAKE IN QUEENSLAND (HETEROPTERA: LEPTOPODIDAE)

By G. B. MONTEITH

Department of Entomology, University of Queensland

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Until recently Leptopodidae seemed endemic to the Mediterranean area and the Ethiopian and Oriental regions including Indonesia and the Philippines. In 1956, Drake described the Australian species *Valleriolaria wilsonae* based on three specimens from two localities, Somerset Dam, South Queensland, and Tolga, in North Queensland.