

RECOGNITION OF *ANOPHELES ARGYRITARSIS* BY THE
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MALE GENITALIA.*

By

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Recently Rolla B. Hill (1930) described a method of classifying four of the *Anopheles* of the *Nyssorhynchus* group by the immediate examination of the male genitalia. For his purpose Hill used the characteristics of the membranous dorsal lobes. He described the method as at present applicable only to *A. albimanus*, *A. tarsimaculatus*, *A. bachmanni* and *A. strodei*. The writer, who has been using this method of identification in his routine work for some time, has found that the recognition of *A. argyritarsis* in the fresh state is equally as easy, using, however, the characteristics of the hairy anal lobe for identification. While he has not had an opportunity to examine the other two similar species from South America (*A. albitarsis* and *A. darlingi*) in the fresh state, he has sent balsam-mounted specimens of *argyritarsis* genitalia to Dr. F. M. Root for comparison with those species and Dr. Root writes that the character holds good for all of his specimens taken in South America, and that neither *A. albitarsis* nor *A. darlingi* shows the presence of hairs on the anal (ventral) lobe.

Apparently, *argyritarsis* is the only one of the white-footed *Nyssorhynchus* group of *Anopheles* that has a hairy anal lobe. These hairs are fine, short, closely spaced along the sides of the tall lobe, and are easily seen in the fresh specimen with 100 × magnification. Even in cleared specimens that have been treated with potash and mounted in balsam, these hairs furnish a ready means of separating this species from others of the group and it is one of the interesting mysteries of the art that they should have escaped recognition for so long a time.

Bibliography.

HILL, ROLLA B.

1930. Classification of certain anopheles of the *Nyssorhynchus* group by immediate examination of the male genitalia. Amer. Jour. Hyg., 11, 711-713.

* From The Gorgas Memorial Laboratory, Panama.

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