Reprinted from SCIENCE, April 13, 1956, Vol. 123, No. 3198, page 634.

Genus Haemagogus in the United States

We have been engaged during the past 6 years in the study of the tropical American mosquitoes of the genus *Haemagogus* (Diptera, Culicidae) that are associated with the wave of sylvan yellow fever that passed through Panama during the period 1948–51 and in 1954 reached the north coast of Honduras.

In the course of field work in Middle America, we came to realize that this genus, which had been studied primarily in the tropical rain forests of South America, includes species characteristic of very different ecological situations. In southern Mexico, near Tuxtla Gutierrez, we found two species of *Haemagogus* at elevations in excess of 4000 feet, associated with a semiarid scrub-type of vegetation. This led us to believe that there were members of the genus that might inhabit similar situations at lower elevations to the north of the Tropic of Cancer. We have been interested in determining the northern limits of the distribution of these mosquitoes because of their implication in the transmission of sylvan yellow fever.

After reviewing available information on the physiography, climatology, and vegetation of the Mexican gulf versant, we selected several areas in the Rio Grande basin for survey in late August and early September of last year, when rainfall and temperature conditions would be most favorable for the breeding of *Haemagogus* (*1*). One of these areas was the delta region of the Rio Grande in the vicinity of Brownsville, Tex. This area is largely under intensive cultivation, but we were able to find occasional patches of thorny scrub vegetation along relatively moist depressions that are locally known as "resacas." Larvae and pupae of *Haemagogus equinus* were collected from water in three tree holes in a patch of thorn scrub off Texas State Highway 48 near the intersection with Farm Road 1792, 5 miles northeast of Brownsville (4 and 6 Sept. 1955); and from a tree-hole 15.7 miles east of Brownsville on Boca Chica Boulevard (6 Sept. 1955). By 8 Sept., adult males and females had already emerged. This material will be deposited in the United States National Museum and the collection of the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory. Because of the pressure of other field work scheduled in Mexico, no attempt was made to seek *Haemagogus* futher north in Texas.

Haemagogus equinus, which occurs at least as far south as Colombia, is a proved vector of yellow fever in the laboratory, but virus has not been recovered with certainty from it in nature. It was, however, the only species of *Haemagogus* found by us in immediate association with the epizootic of yellow fever on the northern coast of Honduras in 1954 (*2*).

HAROLD TRAPIDO
PEDRO GALINDO

Gorgas Memorial Laboratory, Panama, Republic of Panama

References and Notes

1. This investigation was supported by the Research and Development Division, Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, under contract No. DA-49-007-MD-655.
2. H. Trapido and P. Galindo, *Am. J. Trop. Med. Hyg.* 4, 665 (1955).

27 September 1955