## NOTES ON THE VALIDITY OF THE TYPES OF THE SPECIES IN THE SUBGENERA MOCHLOSTYRAX AND MELAN-OCONION IN THE U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM. (DIPTERA, CULICIDAE.)<sup>1</sup>

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The writer approaches his present task with a certain reluctance, for his personal recollections of the late H. G. Dyar are most happy, and he is indebted to him for innumerable kindnesses. This article is prepared with no thought of depreciating Dr. Dyar's great contributions to our knowledge of the Culicidae, which made him the authority on American mosquitoes. The writer merely hopes to rectify some minor details of the architecture of the edifice reared by his late master.

The writer's interest in the taxonomy of the Culicidae began 20 years ago, while a student under Dr. T. J. Headlee, State Entomologist, at Rutgers University. Part of his summer work was the identification of adult mosquitoes taken in night collections in various localities in New Jersey, which were made to evaluate the effect of control measures. In 1924 he began visiting the American tropics, and the bulk of his mosquito material taken there was turned over to Dr. Dyar for confirmation or identification. Dr. Dyar acknowledged these contributions in 13 citations in "The Mosquitoes of the Americas." in which the writer also described two new species of Culex. Since April, 1931, the writer has been in Panama, where he has had the opportunity of making numerous collections of mosquitoes, and has described several new species from this region. He has also had the advantage of close association with Dr. D. P. Curry, Assistant Chief Health Officer of the Panama Canal Health Department, who is an authority on the mosquitoes of this region.

The single work of greatest usefulness to the writer has been Dyar's "The Mosquitoes of the Americas," but he has found it to be like some men's wives, in that we can't get along with it, and can't get along without it. Great difficulties were encountered in making determinations, using Dyar's keys, descriptions and figures. This was particularly true in the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> From Gorgas Memorial Laboratory, Panama City, R. de Panama; H. C. Clark, Director.

subgenera Mochlostyrax and Melanoconion, which have always been accounted difficult groups. Part of the difficulty lay in the inadequacy and inaccuracy of the descriptions of the male terminalia, which are the final resort in specific determinations in these groups. Having worked with Dr. Dyar on several occasions, the writer realized that Dr. Dyar was greatly handicapped by not using an adequate microscope. Having seen many slide mounts of male terminalia made by Dr. Dyar, and observing his methods, it also became evident that great improvement was needed in the technique of preparing slide

During the past four years the writer has been working out an adequate technique for this purpose, the details of which he hopes to publish shortly. By its means, he has been able to dissect out the parts of the male terminalia after staining them, and to mount them in a uniform manner so that they can be satisfactorily examined. The advantages of such a technique are evident when its results are compared with that used by Dr. Dyar, who merely macerated the parts slightly in potash solution, did not stain, unfortunately in too many cases overpressed his material under the coverglass, and in a number of instances mounted the terminalia ventral side down, so that

the ninth tergites are almost completely obscured.

The author's collections in Panama so far have resulted in obtaining all the valid species listed from Panama in Dyar's "The Mosquitoes of the Americas," in the subgenera Mochlostyrax and Melanoconion. He has also added four species in these groups to the records from Panama, and has described two new species. With abundant material available, he has been able to study in detail the terminalia of these species, until familiar with the individual habitus of each. Equipped with this knowledge, he has had the opportunity recently of studying the type material in the U.S. National Museum, where he received much gratefully acknowledged assistance from Dr. Alan Stone, now in charge of the Culicidae. Using an excellent compound binocular microscope, with highly corrected objectives, and with oculars fitted with eyepiece caps giving a stereoscopic effect, showing depth and roundness, he was able to see a great deal more in the material than could possibly be visible through Dr. Dyar's antiquated instrument. Hence he was able to draw a number of conclusions as to the validity of some of the type material under discussion. These conclusions are here set forth, as a preliminary communication, which he hopes will be followed by a more complete article illustrated by photomicrographs of the types, so that others may judge of the correctness of his determinations.

In the subgenus mochlostyrax, with its four sections, Dinoporpa, Helcoporpa, Mochlostyrax and Choeroporpa, and in the subgenus Melanoconion, in its four sections, Tinolestes, Gnophodeomyia, Melanoconion and Anoedioporpa, Dyar lists in "The Mosquitoes of the Americas" 94 species. The male terminalia are unknown in 9 of these, and of the remaining 85, 10 are not represented by material in the U.S. National Museum. The author found that, of the 75 types there, only 59 are valid, thus sinking in the synonymy 16 species. In each case where the validity of a species is questioned, the author sets forth his reasons for so doing in the following notes.

Taking the species in the order given in "The Mosquitoes of

the Americas," Culex (Dinoporpa) trifidus Dyar is valid.

Culex (Helcoporpa) menytes Dyar is valid. The single slide from which the original description was made is in poor condition, distorted and overpressed. The artist apparently had great difficulty in discerning the true appearance of the various parts. The figure and the description are misleading and incorrect, so much so that the present writer, not having seen the type slide, redescribed this species with Dr. D. P. Curry as haynei (Psyche, XXXIX, 32, 1932). This should warn those engaged in similar work never to trust completely the accuracy of either the descriptions or the illustrations in Dr. Dyar's last work. These harsh words are unfortunately justified by the

author's experience.

Culex (Mochlostyrax) caudelli D. & K. is valid. However, multispinosus B. W. & B., which Dyar sank under the synonymy of caudelli, may be a valid species. Dyar discusses this in Ins. Ins. Mens. XII, p. 185, stating, "However, one of the specimens under alogistus differs, and I am supposing this to be multispinosus." This is a slide marked "H," Bonne-Wepster, Surinam 1918, and bears the name "multispinosus" on the label in Dyar's handwriting. The male type of this species is in Holland, but the "H" slide in the U. S. N. M. is distinct from caudelli, and may possibly be distinct from the male type in Holland. The figure of multispinosus in the Bonnes' "Mosquitoes of Surinam" does not show correctly the form or position of the leaf on the outer aspect of the outer lobe of the side-piece, nor is the appearance of the 9th tergites correctly shown.

The next eight species, alogistus Dyar, hesitator D. & K., pilosus D. & K., unicornis Root, innovator Evans, egcymon Dyar, taeniopus D. & K., and opisthopus Komp, are valid.

Culex (Mochlostyrax) mychonde Komp is a synonym of opisthopus Komp. The single male was sent by me to Dr. Dyar, labeled "opisthopus Komp." He thought it a new species, and himself drew up the description published in "The Mosquitoes of the Americas" under my name. I have re-examined my types of opisthopus and of mychonde, and find them identical. I since (1934) have obtained more males of mychonde from the type locality for comparison. The messomal plate of opisthopus

is described for mychonde, except that there is no "long slender dark point (which) extends straight outward, exceeding the plate . . .".

The species automartus Root and psatharus Dyar are valid.

Culex epanastasis Dyar is taeniopus D. & K. Dyar omits in his description in "The Mosquitoes of the Americas" one of the most striking characteristics of the terminalia of taeniopus, the membranous sheath with recurved point at the base of the two filaments of the inner division of the lobe of the side-piece. This is mentioned in Ins. Ins. Mens., XIII, 214, 1925, and is present in the epanastasis slide. The characters on which Dyar based his separation do not exist, as the inner plates of the mesosome are alike in the slide material of both species, and only appear to differ because differently orientated in the respective mounts. It is intrinsically improbable that two species should exist in the same territory, five miles apart, and be exactly similar in every respect with the exception of the form of the mesosomal plate.

Culex inadmirabilis Dyar. The single slide of this is in poor condition. Dyar overlooked a side-piece which had been detached from the rest of the parts, and had moved close to the edge of the cover-glass, where it had become covered with balsam which had exuded from under the edge. By clearing off this balsam it was possible to obtain an excellent view of the undamaged side-piece. The clasper is narrowly snout-shaped, much as in elevator. The inner filament of the inner lobe of the side-piece is inserted much basad of the outer, not evenly, as Dyar states. Apparently there is a leaf, the tip of which is broken off, inserted on the outer aspect of the outer division of the lobe of the side-piece, and a strong spine-like seta on the outer aspect of the column of the outer division, somewhat

basad of the insertion of the leaf.

Culex clarki Evans is valid, but according to F. W. Edwards

is a synonym of C. nigrescens Theo.

Culex thomasi Evans. There is no material of this species in the U. S. N. M.

Culex bequaerti D. & S. is valid, as are likewise C. anips Dyar,

erraticus D. & K., and peccator D. & K.

Culex holoneus Dyar is conspirator D. & K. The inner mesosomal plate in the single slide is orientated so that its plane is perpendicular to the coverglass. The peculiar striation of the pointed upper limb of this plate is plainly visible, and the second pointed limb is present. Dyar (Ins. Ins. Mens., IX, 50, 1921) recognized that dysmathes (a synonym of conspirator) was close to holoneus, but was unable, because of the poor mount, to see the actual form of the inner mesosomal plate.

Culex ybarmis Dyar is valid. Dyar does not mention the

long ventral horn present on the inner mesosomal plate.

Culex alcocci B.-W. & B. is valid.

Culex nicceriensis B.-W. & B. There is no material in the U. S. N. M.

Culex saramaccensis B.-W. & B. There is no material in the

Culex terebor Dyar. The single slide is in such poor condition as to be indecipherable. Dyar hints that it probably is not a good species, and it is here recommended that it be relegated to the list of unrecognized species.

Culex distinguendus Dyar is valid. The author has new

material from Panama.

Culex conspirator D. & K. is valid. Dyar is correct in his description of the inner mesosomal plate in Ins. Ins. Mens., VIII, 59, 1920, where he states "the second uncal plate (inner mesosomal plate) has one limb shorter than the other, both pointed," yet in the key in "The Mosquitoes of the Americas," (dichotomy 77, p. 279) he states that both limbs of the mesosomal plate are rounded at the tip. This does not agree with the written description in the same work, which states that the upper limb has "one erect point." Both limbs actually are pointed, and are directed at right angles to the body of the plate, in the same plane.

Culex fatuator D. & S. is conspirator D. & K. Every detail

exactly agrees.

Culex inducens Root is conspirator D. & K. Dyar separated this from conspirator solely on the position of the stemmed leaf on the outer division of the lobe of the side-piece, which he said was inserted basad of the filaments, in inducens. It is in exactly the same position as in conspirator in both terminalia of inducens,

which are mounted on the same slide (No. 44160).

Culex elevator D. & K. is valid. Dyar's figure (No. 251) in "The Mosquitoes of the Americas" is absolutely misleading. The figure of dyius Root is much closer to the actual appearance. The species dyius Root, which Dyar sank under the synonymy of elevator D. & K., seems to be distinct. The shape of the clasper is the same, but dyius has a seta with a long insertion on the base of the outer division of the lobe of the sidepiece. More study than the writer was able to give to this will be required to establish the specific status of dyius.

Culex dornarum D. & S. This is elevator, as hinted by Dyar. The type slide (No. 1849) shows an inner mesosomal plate as in

elevator.

Culex macaronensis Dyar and Nuñez-Tovar is conspirator. The terminalia have been badly damaged in mounting, and some of the filaments have broken off and lie near the outer division of the lobe of the side-piece. The leaf also is missing, but everything else agrees exactly.

Culex phlogistus Dyar is valid. The author obtained a number

of males of this species from Almirante, Panama, in 1934. It is a good species, but Dyar's figure (No. 254) is inaccurate and misleading.

Culex maroniensis B.-W. & B. There is no material in the

U. S. N. M.

Culex albinensis B.-W. & B. is valid.

Culex serratimargo Root is valid. The type slide from Brazil is very poor, the 9th tergites being much compressed and distorted. The writer has obtained much additional material from Panama.

Culex plectoporpe Root is valid. Only one side-piece is present in the type slide (No. 109-7). The author took a male at

Almirante, Panama, in 1929.

Culex tecmarsis Dyar is valid. Common on the Atlantic side of the Canal Zone.

the Canal Zone.

Culex phlabistus Dyar is valid.

Culex coppenamensis B.-W. & B. is valid.

Culex intrincatus Brèthes. The type is not in the U. S. N. M. and the description is made from material collected by F. M. Root, labeled "cenus." If Dyar is correct in his synonymy, the species is apparently valid.

Culex corentynensis Dyar is valid.

Culex manaosensis Evans. This is not represented in the U. S. N. M. collection. From Miss Evans' figure and description (Ann. Trop. Med. and Par., XVIII, 370, 1924) it is suspiciously like the common easter Dyar, differing in lacking the normally present long hook-tipped filament inserted below the four short filaments and the large leaf on the outer division of

the side-piece.

Culex mutator D. & K. This presents a peculiar combination of errors. There are six slides in the collection, three of which are Knab's original material from Mexico, which agree among themselves, and are therefore true mutator. Three other slides, Nos. 1358, 1651 and 1798, are labeled "alfaroi," which Dyar later relegated to the synonymy of mutator. These three slides do not agree in the slightest respect with true mutator, but are all of bastagarius D. & K., a common and apparently widespread species, to which must also be relegated three other species which will be discussed in their proper place.

Culex inhibitator D. & K. is valid.

Culex innominatus Evans. There is no material in the U. S. N. M. This is undoubtedly bastagarius D. & K. Miss Evans' description and figure (Ann. Trop. Med. and Par., XVIII, 363, 1924) are correct, and show the parallel insertion of the two filaments of the inner division of the lobe of the side-piece, the leaves on the outer division, and the very characteristic clear, nearly hairless, slipper-like basal extensions of the 9th tergites. Apparently Dyar did not examine Miss Evans'

illustrations, for these extensions of the tergites are not shown in his figure of innominatus.

Culex carcinophilus D. & K. is valid.

Culex evansi Root is valid.

Culex bastagarius D. & K. is valid, and is the progenitor of a number of synonyms: alfaroi Dyar, innominatus Evans, vapulans Dyar and xivilis Dyar. It is a well-marked species, the peculiar 9th tergites being strikingly characteristic, and well depicted in Miss Evans' figure of innominatus, but not shown in any of Dyar's illustrations of the species mentioned.

Culex vapulans Dyar is bastagarius Dyar. The furcation of

the inner division of the lobe of the side-piece is an artifact.

Culex comminutor Dyar is valid. This is much like intrincatus, but unfortunately there is but one slide, very poor, mounted with the 9th tergites down, so that they are almost entirely obscured by the side-pieces.

Culex easter Dyar is valid, and common on the Atlantic side

of the Canal Zone.

Culex maxinocca Dyar is valid.

Culex curryi Dyar. This is probably elevator D. & K. The type came from Panama, where similar material is very common. The larvae are said to differ from those of elevator, but the shape of the inner plate of the mesosome is the same as in elevator, and all other parts agree.

Culex educator D. & K. is valid. The larvae have a huge

accessory tracheal gill system on the head.

Culex chrysothorax Peryassu. There is no material in the U. S. N. M.

Culex chrysonotum D. & K. is valid, and ranges from Honduras

(Komp) to Surinam.

Culex theobaldi Lutz. This is chrysonotum D. & K. The writer has material kindly presented to him by Dr. G. Senevet, from French Guiana, in which the length of the mesosomal plate is the same as that of Honduranian and Panamanian material.

Culex bibulus Dyar is educator D. & K. The single slide is poor, but the writer can determine no specific differences, and the characters given by Dyar in "The Mosquitoes of the Americas" seem insufficient upon which to base a new species.

Culex iolambdis Dyar is valid. Culex sursumptor Dyar is valid. Culex andricus Root is valid.

Culex jonistes Dyar is ybarmis Dyar. The single slide is poor, but all the parts are as in ybarmis Dyar, the published descriptions of jonistes Dyar noting differences which are owing to the differing orientation of the parts.

Culex xivilis Dyar is bastagarius D. & K. The slides of

xivilis and of cuclyx all agree with bastagarius.

Culex idottus Dyar is valid, but is represented by one slide in

poor condition.

The following species are unknown in the male: indecorabilis Theo., nigrescens Theo., simulator D. & K., decorator D. & K., gravitator D. & K., nigricorpus Theo., humilis Theo., fasciolatus Lutz, and lugens Peryassu.

The subgenus MELANOCONION has four sections, the first two, Tinolestes and Gnophodeomyia, having one species apiece, the third, Melanoconion, having 15, and the fourth, Anoedioporpa,

having six, as given by Dyar.

Culex (Tinolestes) latisquama Coq. is valid.

Culex (Gnophodeomyia) aikenii Aiken is valid. The author has taken it as far north as Honduras.

Culex (Melanoconion) atratus Theo. is valid.

Culex (M.) zeteci Dyar is valid. Dyar's description of the terminalia is marred by many errors of observation, so that the key ("The Mosq. of Amer." dichotomy 52, p. 274) is unworkable. The museum material shows 3 appendages (filaments) on the inner division of the lobe of the side-piece, instead of 2, as stated, and as likewise the description (p. 339). The third filament arises from the base of the inner division. Between the outer lobe of the side-piece and the apex there is a flattened filament which, depending on its orientation, sometimes appears as a seta. The clasper, not mentioned in Dyar's description, is slender, bulbous at the base, with peculiar enlarged tip, with flattened terminal appendage.

Culex (M.) dunni Dyar is valid, but is incorrectly described. There are 4 setae inserted at the tip of the column of the outer division of the side-piece; the leaf is inserted below the tip. The inner mesosomal plate is finely granular or spicular on its outer

(dorsal) curvature, the tip slender and pointed.

Culex (M.) commercynensis B.-W. & B. There is no material in the U. S. N. M. The figure in "Mosquitoes of Surinam" (No. 37) shows terminalia suspiciously like that of dunni Dyar, differing only in details which may be non-existent, as all the Bonnes' slide-mounts the writer has seen are unfortunately uniformly poor.

Culex (M.) ruffinis D. & S. is dunni Dyar. A curious confusion in key, descriptions and illustrations occurs in this group in Dyar's "The Mosquitoes of the Americas." In the

key on p. 274, dichotomy 49 is given as

Dichotomy 50 describes commercensis and ruffinis, which by the key should have a leaf between the outer division and the apex. Yet the figure of ruffinis (297 on p. 557) does not show this leaf, although it is noted in the description on p. 341.

Conversely, dichotomy 51 (without a leaf between outer division and apex) leads us to 53, which separates dunni and atratus. Yet the figure of dunni (295 on p. 557) shows the leaf which is actually present, and which is likewise correctly noted in the description on p. 340. These unfortunate errors render

this part of the key unworkable.

The description of ruffinis is full of errors of observation. The type slide, No. 1928, shows a fourth filament on the inner division of the lobe of the side-piece; four setae inserted at the top of the column of the outer division with the leaf are not mentioned; the setae on the ninth tergites are not short and spicular, but rather fine and hairlike. The inner mesosomal plate in both dunni and ruffinis is covered on its dorsal curvature with fine granular or spicular points, only visible at high magnification. There is no doubt that ruffinis is a synonym of dunni.

Culex (M.) spissipes Theo. There is no material in the

U. S. N. M.

Culex (M.) loturus Dyar is zeteci Dyar. The single type slide of loturus (No. 2193) shows unmistakably three appendages (filaments) on the inner division of the lobe of the side-piece; all the other parts of the terminalia are exactly as in zeteci.

Culex (M.) americanus Neveu-Lemaire. Apparently valid,

but all slides poor and nearly indecipherable.

Culex (M.) antillum-magnorum Dyar is valid. The inner plate of the mesosome, not described by Dyar, is a flat plate, truncate at the tip, with a long backwardly-directed hook below the middle.

Section Anoedioporpa, Culex (M.) homoeopas Dyar and Ludlow. This is inhibitator, much broken and distorted, It illustrates most forcibly the author's contention that an adequate technique of staining and dissecting the parts is an absolute prerequisite for the correct interpretation of the male terminalia, The single slide of homocopas exhibits marked distortion: the claspers are bent inwards and nearly doubled on thenselves, forming an angle which led the authors of the species to believe that they were dealing with a specimen of Anoedioporpa; although they state in the original description (Ins. Ins. Mens., IX, 34, 1921) that the "clasper (is) simple, bent at right angles in the middle (which may be an artifact)." The outer divisions of the side-pieces have many of the filaments broken off and lying unattached near them. There is a large, well-defined leaf, bent forward over the outer division. The mesosome is so badly distorted that the basal hooks are everted, so that they assume an apical position. The second point on the inner mesosomal plate is obscured by the upper point, which lies over it, but by turning the slide over and viewing it from beneath

(fortunately the slide is thin), using the stereoscopic eyecaps, it can easily be seen. The large ninth tergites, while distorted, are perfectly characteristic. Culex inhibitator D. & K. is one of the commonest small Culex to be found in the type locality, Jackson Barracks, Mississippi. The male palpi are long, exceeding the "proboscis by the length of the last joint and half the preceding one." (Mosq. of Amer., p. 345.) The rest of the description of the male is identical with that of Culex inhibitator D. & K.

Culex (M.) conservator D. & K. is valid.

Culex (M.) originator Gordon & Evans is valid.

Culex (M.) corrigani D. & K. is valid. The author has seen new material from the Canal Zone.

Culex (M.) restrictor D. & K. is valid, but is really a Micro-

culex. The male has long palpi.

Culex (M.) luteopleurus Theo. The male is unknown.

In addition to the notes on synonymy in the species of Mochlostyras and Melanoconion given above, one species of the subgenus Culex has also been found to be invalid. This is lepostenis Dyar, which is mollis D. & K. Through the kindness of Dr. E. Chapin, Curator of Insects of the U. S. National Museum, the writer has been able to dissect and mount the terminalia of one of the unmounted male types, and finds them to be those of C. (Microculex) jenningsi D. & K.

For ease of reference, a list of the synonyms mentioned above

is here given:

Culex (Mochlostyrax) mychonde Komp is C. opisthopus Komp.

Culex (Mochlostyrax) epanastasis Dyar is C. taeniopus D. & K.

Culex (Mochlostyrax) holoneus Dyar is C. conspirator D. & K.

Culex (Mochlostyrax) fatuator D. & S. is C. conspirator D. & K.

Culex (Mochlostyrax) inducens Root is C. conspirator D. & K. Culex (Mochlostyrax) dornarum D. & S. is C. elevator D. & K.

Culex (Mochlostyrax) macaronensis Dyar & Nuñez Tovar is C. conspirator D. & K.

Culex (Mochlostyrax) innominatus Evans is C. bastagarius D. & K.

Culex (Mochlostyrax) vapulans Dyar is bastagarius D. & K.

Culex (Mochlostyrax) curryi Dyar is C. elevator D. & K.

Culex (Mochlostyrax) bibulus Dyar is C. educator D. & K.

Culex (Mochlostyrax) jonistes Dyar is C. ybarnis Dyar.

Culex (Mochlostyrax) xivilis Dyar is C. bastagarius D. & K.

Culex (Melanoconion) ruffinis D. & S. is C. dunni Dyar.

Culex (Melanoconion) loturus Dyar is C. zeteci Dyar.

Culex (Melanoconion) (Annedioporpa) homocopus Dyur und Ludlow is C. (Moehlostryax) inhibitator D. & K.

The writer realizes that to complete his work a new key should be prepared, omitting these synonyms, and correcting the errors in previous keys. However, this must wait until a later date, as his time in Washington was too short to enable him to do this. In those species which are represented by a unique specimen, it would be extremely hazardous to attempt a separation without immediate access to the material for purpose of comparison, and the author is unwilling to risk adding confusion to an already sadly confused subject.

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