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THE ANOPHELINE MOSQUITOES
OF THE CARIBBEAN REGION



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Group NYSSORHYNCHUS

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THE ANOPHELINE MOSQUITOES OF THE CARIBBEAN REGION¹

INTRODUCTION

This paper is an attempt to set forth our present knowledge of the anopheline mosquitoes of the Caribbean region, both from the literature, and from the personal observations of the author. It deals with their known geographic distribution, their status as vectors of malaria, but more particularly with their classification and identification. It is written primarily from the point of view of the systematic entomologist, but the needs of the field man engaged in malaria control have been kept in mind; for this reason there have been incorporated numerous illustrations and keys, the latter in both Spanish and English, together with a list of entomological terms in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, for the convenience of Latin-American workers.

The reasons for restricting this work to the Caribbean region are the following: In this region is found the majority of tropical American anopheline species of economic importance; the region is, geographically and climatically considered, a convenient unit; the writer's own studies have been confined mainly to this region, where he has had the opportunity to collect material of every species treated in this work and to discover or describe several new species.

Most of the anopheline species found in the Caribbean area are well known, but the literature concerning them is scattered in many publications, some now difficult to obtain. There are several articles on the *Anopheles* of various parts of the Neotropical region, such as Shannon's The Anophelines of the Amazon Valley (43), which are useful, but incomplete, not giving descriptions of all stages of the species. The excellent papers of the late F. M. Root on the larvae, male terminalia, and females of our American species are scattered in several publications. The latest comprehensive treatment of the American anophelines is the late H. G. Dyar's The Mosquitoes of the Americas (12), now out of print. In this volume Dyar drew largely on the work of Root, who was the authority on the Neotropical anophelines at the time of his death. Dyar's treatment of the anophelines is rather superficial. His descriptions are inadequate, his keys are difficult to use and contain

¹ From the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory, H. C. Clark, Director, Panama City, R. de P.

grave errors, while his figures of the male terminalia are drawn on too small a scale to show the parts distinctly, and his figures of the larval head and terminal segments are useless for differential purposes. Since the publication of Dyar's monograph, several new species of *Anopheles* have been found, the larvae and males of other known species have been discovered, and new facts concerning the distribution and malaria-carrying powers of some of the species have been ascertained. The terminology of many of the structural characters used in classification has now been more or less standardized, and useful new characters have been found. The publication of Edwards' catalog of the *Culicidae* (13) has given us a comprehensive treatment of the vexed problems of specific nomenclature, and contains the latest authoritative work on the classification of the anopheline mosquitoes.

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