

SOME TABANIDAE (DIPTERA) FROM EASTERN ECUADOR

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ABSTRACT

Tabanidae were collected at Limon Cocha and Santa Cecilia along the headwaters of the Amazon River in Ecuador during the dry season of 1965 and 1966. Twenty-seven species are reported from the area. All of the collections represent new locality records.

The fauna of Tabanidae (Diptera) of Neotropical America is large and diverse. Most of the large collections that have been made are from the easily accessible coasts and thickly populated areas. Collections from the interior of the region are few in number and there is little known concerning which species are present and their bionomics. This paucity of knowledge is a result of the inaccessibility of many areas of tropical jungles, high mountains, or other difficult terrain, and in some instances, of hostile aborigines who have prevented biological expeditions from entering their domains. One of the more remote areas of South America is the headwaters region of the Amazon river in eastern Ecuador. This area has not been collected because of hostile Indians and poor transportation into the area. In recent years, several airstrips and villages have been established and air traffic to and from the area is more common.

No attempt other than those of Surcouf (1919) and Campos (1960) has been made to list the species of Tabanidae of Ecuador, although a catalog of the Neotropical species was published by Kroeber in 1934 and a number of new species and changes in name have been made by Fairchild (1956, 1966, and 1967). Most of the records of Tabanidae from Ecuador are reported singly in scattered papers. This paper reports the results of collections from eastern Ecuador made by the senior author at various times in 1965 and 1966.

PLACES AND METHODS OF COLLECTIONS

Limon Cocha is a small missionary base located near the junction of the Napo and Jivino rivers about 0.4 degrees S. latitude and 76.6 degrees longitude. The altitude of the area is about 300 meters and the drainage is to the east. The name Limon Cocha is derived from the lake, a small body of water about 1000 meters long and 100 meters wide, and except for neighboring rivers, it is the dominant body of water in the area. The terrestrial environment is high jungle with trees of 50 or more meters in height and dense undergrowth which limits travel by foot. Several acres of land around the lake have been cleared for pastures and building sites. Trails through the jungle connect the village with aboriginal villages in the area. Tabanid collections were made only in cleared areas and along trails since the jungle could not be easily penetrated on foot.

Santa Cecilia on the Aguarico river is about 100 miles north of Limon Cocha. It is just north of the equator at 77 degrees longitude. The altitude of the area is about 900 meters. The vegetation is similar to Limon Cocha, but as a result of the higher altitude and less rainfall the plants are not as large and the underbrush is not as thick. Some of the jungle in this area has been cleared by geological teams exploring for petroleum. The airstrip is one of the largest clearings in the area and several tabanids were collected along it.

Two seasons, wet and dry, are evident in both areas. The wettest season is in December and January and the driest is during July and August. The dryness of the season may have been responsible, in part, for the low tabanid populations which were encountered in June, July, and August.

Tabanids were collected by use of malaise traps, aerial insect nets, bait animals, and from buildings.

THE TABANIDAE COLLECTED

Esenbeckia ecuadorensis Lutz and Castro 1 ♀, Limon Cocha 3 September 1965.

Elaphella cervus Wied. 1 ♀, Limon Cocha 6 November 1966.

Fidena sp. 3 ♀, Limon Cocha 6 November 1965.

Chrysops varians var. *tardus* Wied. 2 ♀, Santa Cecilia on 7 July 1966.

Diachlorus bimaculatus (Wied.) 12 ♀, Santa Cecilia on 5 August 1966.

Lepiselaga crassipes (Fabr.) 57 ♀, Limon Cocha November 1965 and July 1966.

Chlorotabanus inanis (Fabr.) 5 ♀, Limon Cocha on 20 July 1965.

Chlorotabanus (Cryptotylus) unicolor (Wied.) 1 ♀, Limon Cocha 31 July 1966.

Dichelacera marginata Macq. 1 ♂, 2 ♀, Santa Cecilia 16 June 1966.

Stibasoma fulvohirtum Wied. 1 ♀, Limon Cocha 29 July 1966.

Stenotabanus peruviensis Krober 4 ♀, Santa Cecilia 20 June 1966.

Stypommisa captiroptera (Krober) 1 ♀, Limon Cocha 22 June 1965.

Stypommisa modica Hine 5 ♀, Santa Cecilia 19 July 1966.

Stypommisa pequeniensis Fairchild 1 ♀, Santa Cecilia 27 June 1966.

Philipotabanus magnificus (Krober) 2 ♀, Limon Cocha 20 July 1965.

Leucotabanus exaestuans (Linn.) 2 ♀, Limon Cocha 11 August 1966; 1 ♀, Santa Cecilia 27 July 1966.

Phaeotabanus cajennensis (Fabr.) 1 ♀, Limon Cocha 26 July 1965.

Phaeotabanus nigri flavus (Krober) 2 ♀, Limon Cocha 11 November 1965.

Tabanus dorsiger Wied. 50 ♀, Limon Cocha June-August 1965.

Tabanus hirtitibia Walk. 1 ♀, Limon Cocha 21 July 1965.

Tabanus thiemana (Enderlein) 3 ♀, Limon Cocha 10 August 1966.

Tabanus macquarti Schiner 2 ♀, Limon Cocha 6 November 1965.

Tabanus discifer Wlk. 3 ♀, Limon Cocha 6 November 1965.

Tabanus guyanensis Macq. 1 ♀, Limon Cocha 2 August 1966.

Tabanus (Poeciloderas) 4-punctatus Fabr. 2 ♀, Santa Cecilia 16 July 1966.

Tabanus sannio Fchld. 1 ♀, Santa Cecilia 16 July 1966.

Tabanus sorbillans Wied. 1 ♀, Limon Cocha 8 August 1965.

All the specimens were placed in the Auburn University Entomological Museum in Auburn, Alabama.

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