M.W. Service: Methods for sampling adult Simuliidae with special reference to the Simulium damnosum complex. *Tropical Pest Bulletin 5, Centre for overseas pest research, London 1977, 48 pp. Price £ 3.*

The report of Professor M. W. Service summarizes and evaluates data on the methods for sampling adult Simuliidae, a family of blood-sucking Diptera of great medical importance. In some regions masses of blackflies breed in running waters and their bites have toxic effects on domestic animals and man. They are vectors of many serious diseases such as tularemia, anthrax and onchocerciases. *Simulium damnosum* is the main vector of *Onchocerca volvulus*, pathogenic to man in Africa and therefore a particular attention is paid to this blackfly species.

The report consists of a brief introduction and accounts of different sampling techniques with notes on the ecology of blackfly species collected. The methods are divided into catches by traps to which blackflies are attracted in different ways, by non-attractant traps and catches by miscellaneous methods. First described are human bait catches during which blackflies alighting on humans are collected by various means, including quantitative contraptions which are particularly used in the moderate zone of the USSR and Czechoslovakia. This account is followed by descriptions of bait animals and animal-baited traps, carbon dioxide traps, visual attraction traps and light traps. Unusual trapping methods discussed are catches of some blackfly species on the skin of common loons *(Gavia immer)*, by sticky traps and by window-type exit traps.

Among the non-attractant traps discussed are Malaise traps, ramp and rotary traps, suction and sticky traps and vehicle-mounted nets. The subsequent account deals with the technique of collecting blackflies in their resting sites, during swarming and nectar feeding. Special accounts are devoted to traps for collecting blackflies, during hatching and to the mark-recapture techniques for dispersal studies. At the end of the treatise there are brief conclusions and an extensive bibliography including 252 references.

Professor Service has brought together a large body of valuable information on the methods for sampling adult blackflies under different climatic conditions and on the most suitable techniques used at present for the studies of blackfly ecology. His report will be of great interest to workers in medical entomology who are engaged in research of this important group of parasitic insects.

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