

OCCURRENCE OF URANOTAENIA UNGUICULATA EDWARDS, 1913 (DIPTERA, CULICIDAE) IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Till this time, 5 genera of mosquitoes have been known on the territory of Czechoslovakia, namely *Anopheles*, *Culiseta*, *Mansonia*, *Aedes* and *Culex*. When studying the mosquitoes as vectors of arboviruses in southern Moravia, we found the species *Uranotaenia unguiculata* Edwards, 1913, which is the new genus and species for the fauna of Czechoslovakia.

A female of *Uranotaenia unguiculata*, to all appearance a freshly emerged specimen, was caught on the border of the pond Nesyt near the village Sedlec (district Břeclav) on 12th September 1973. Together with this specimen also adults of *Culex modestus* Fic. (53 females), *Culex pipiens* L. (18 females and 3 males) and *Anopheles claviger* Meig. (3 females) were caught. The collecting was done in the reeds in the breeding place of *Culex modestus*, at air temperature of +17 °C, between 10—12 a.m. The mosquitoes of the above species alighted on the dark clothes of the worker and were collected by an exhauster. A special character of this locality is the increased content of sulphates in water and a slightly alkaline reaction (Jírovec O., Věstn. král. č. spol. nauk 1936, 8: 1—19, 1937; Úlehlová B., Rejtar L., Stud. ČSAV 15: 39—43, 1973). The same data on the breeding places of *U. unguiculata* were recorded by Dubicky (Krovososushchie komary [Diptera, Culicidae] Kazakhstana, 222 pp., Izd. Nauka Kaz. SSR, Alma-Ata, 1970), who pointed out also the short period of activity of adult specimens. According to this author the first adults appear as late as in the second half of August.

Close by the locality where our specimen of *U. unguiculata* was found, on the edge of the village Sedlec, there are the breeding places of a salt-requiring species *Anopheles labranchiae* Fall. (Rosický B., Havlík O., Ent. listy 14: 119—130, 1951; Minář J., Rosický B., Čs. Epidemiol., Microbiol., Immunol., in press).

Nearest to our territory *U. unguiculata* was reported from Austria from Neusiedler See (Aspöck H., Kunz Ch., Pretzmann G., Zbl. Bakt. I (214): 160—173, 1970) and from Hungary on the northern edge of Balaton, near the Lake Velence and in Hajdúszoboszló (Mihályi F., Sztankay-Gulyás M., Magyarország csípő szúnyogjai, 229 p., Akad. Kiadó, Budapest, 1963). These authors found repeatedly in the

cellar of a school-building in the village Velence from autumn to spring also overwintering females of *U. unguiculata*, which supported the opinion that this species overwinters as an adult stage. *U. unguiculata* occurs mainly in maritime countries of South and West Europe and North Africa, it is also known from some regions of the U.S.S.R. (southern Ukraine, the delta of the Volga River, Caucasus, Kazakhstan), from Iran and Pakistan (Gutsevich A. V., Monchadsky A. S., Shtakelberg A. A., Krovososushchie komary (Culicidae). Fauna SSSR 3 (4), 384 pp., Izd. Nauka, Leningrad, 1970). This species does not infest man and domestic animals, it is likely to infest birds (Petrishcheva P. A., Vopr. kr. parazitol. Turkmen. SSR 3: 243—265, Ashkhabad 1962).

Uranotaenia unguiculata distinctly differs from other mosquito species living in Czechoslovakia in the presence of narrow silver stripes on sides of mesonotum and on lateral sclerites of thorax; the adult specimen is of dark-brown colour, about 4 mm long. The differentiating feature of the genus *Uranotaenia* is the structure of wings: the anal vein terminates approximately at the level of bifurcation of r_{2+3} and r_{4+5} , while in other genera of the tribe *Culicini* the anal vein terminates behind this bifurcation near the top of wing.

The finding of *U. unguiculata* near the pond Nesyt in southern Moravia is the first occurrence of this species in Czechoslovakia and this locality is the northernmost border of its distribution reported till now. In the region of ponds of southern Moravia, where extensive investigation of mosquitoes were carried out in last years, more than 80 thousand specimens were determined and examined for the presence of arboviruses (Danielová V. et al., Čs. Epidemiol., Microbiol., Immunol. 15: 178—184, 1966; Málková D. et al., Folia parasit. (Praha), in press), but *U. unguiculata* has never been found. We assume that this species was escaping the notice because of its short autumnal activity.

J. RYBA, Z. HÁJKOVÁ, M. KAFTAN,
Institute of Parasitology,
Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences,
Prague