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UNDESCRIBED HEAD HAIRS IN LARVAE OF  
THE GENUS *CULEX* (DIPTERA : CULICIDAE)

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DURING taxonomic studies of Malayan mosquito larvae, it has been found that, in certain species of *Culex*, the head possesses one or two pairs of very small setae which appear to be hitherto undescribed. These setae, for which I propose the term "post-orbital setae", are placed laterally, a little anterior to the cervical collar, and figure 1 shows them as seen in *Culex rubithoracis* Leicester. Such setae appear to be a fairly constant feature of the subgenera *Lophoceraomyia* and *Culiciomyia*. All Malayan members so far examined in these two groups possess them, with the exception of three of the nepenthi-colous species: *C. hewitti* Edwards, *C. navalis* Edwards and *C. coerulea* Edwards. Strangely enough, they also occur in the apparently unrelated *C. hutchinsoni* Barraud and I have seen one specimen of *C. fatigans* Wiedemann with a single seta, on one side only. Variation in size, branching and number of setae, occurs both within and between species; there may be one or two pairs, well developed or exceedingly minute, and with 1-3 branches. They provide therefore a minor taxonomic character for the identification of certain species. Of more interest, however, is the possibility that they indicate a degree of relationship between the subgenera and species which possess them, thereby providing confirmation of the usually assumed link between *Lophoceraomyia* and *Culiciomyia*. It also seems possible that these subgenera are linked to Edwards' group B of the subgenus *Culex*, through *C. hutchinsoni*, which is a rather aberrant member of the latter group.

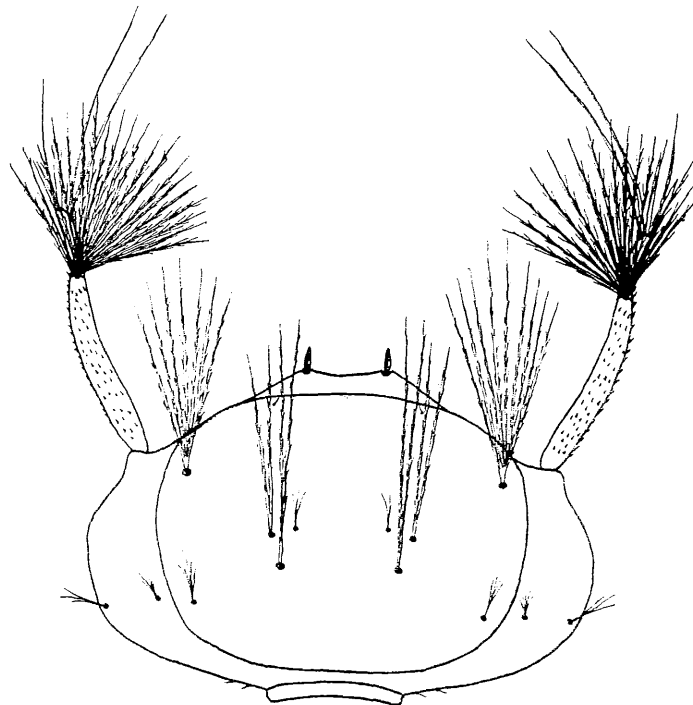


FIG. 1.—*Culex rubithoracis* Leicester. Post-orbital setae.