

Phoniomyia esmeraldasii, a new mosquito from Ecuador

By Dr. Roberto Levi-Castillo.
Honorary Sanitary Entomologist of
the Ecuadorian Public Health Service.

This species is rather scarce and was found in the island of Changuaral in Ancón de Sardinias Bay in Esmeraldas Province, Ecuador.

During an epidemiological survey conducted by the Yellow Fever Service to the islands of the Ancón de Sardinias Bay, a considerable number of specimens were collected and brought back, among them came one single mosquito specimen that did not agree with any of the already known species of Sabethini, and being a male the author dissected the terminalia that was composed of a coxite rather long, with the clasper absent, the tenth sternite was sclerotized and toothed at apex; the ninth tergite had three setae in each lobe, thus the specimen was found to have the characters of the genus Phoniomyia.

The keys to the species of Phoniomyia were consulted in Lane's book and other bibliography on the genus was consulted and no relation was found between the Ecuadorian species and any of the known species, so the author believes it to be new to science and because of the fact that it comes from Esmeraldas province it was named **Phoniomyia esmeraldasii** n. sp.

The larvae and pupae are still unknown to science.

***Phoniomyia esmeraldasi* n. sp.**

Male.— Antenna plumose. Palpus small, golden brown. vertex with silvery scales forming a spot; occiput with silvery scales and a blue spot in the middle.

Pronotal lobes covered with patches of silvery scales and black setae. Mesonotum with golden brown scales. Pleurae with light brown integument and silvery scales, with silvery spots at base of sternopleura and propleura, extending to base of coxae.

Legs blackish brown with mid tarsi and hind tarsi with white rather large.

Abdomen brown with a metallic sheen dorsally; ventrally with silvery scales with a metallic sheen.

Genitalia Coxite three times length of greatest width, conical curved on distal third apical tuft of hairs and some scales mesially and basally groups of five and six thick long setae and a long chitinized process arising from a basal tubercle located in the middle towards the external surface a tuft of seven long thick setae. Mesosome ovate, the points rounded, a small tooth on each side, with a mesal chitinized process. Tenth sternite with one apical tooth, chitinized with three very small setae near apex. Ninth tergite with broad interlobar concave space each lobe with three separated, saber-like, curved at apex and pointed setae.

Holotype.— Male with terminalia in the collection of "Centro Ecuatoriano de Investigaciones Entomológicas" Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Type Locality: Changuaral Island, Ancón de Sardinas Bay, Esmeraldas Province, Ecuador.

Distribution.— Rather unknown.

Discussion.— This species found in Changuaral Island, Ancón de Sardinas Bay in Esmeraldas Province is from a location that had never before been explored, this being the first time that mosquitoes

were collected in this isolated island in the Pacific Ocean, in the Northwestern part of Ecuador, near the Colombian border. The region is quite interesting as the climate is high between 28° C and 32° C, it is a rain-forest and the specimen was collected feeding on a papaya, by means of a suction tube. It is a rather scarce species and no more specimens have been collected at the same spot.

Summary

The author describes for the first time a new species of mosquito belonging to the genus *Phoniomyia* and it is named ***Phoniomyia esmeraldasi***, a description of the mosquito is given hereby.

Bibliography.

Lane J. & Cerqueira N. — 1942. — Os Sabethineos da America. Arq. Zool. Est. Sao Paulo III: 620-650 pp. 746-758.

Lane J. — 1953. — Neotropical Culicidae. — Vol. II: 1003-1044.

Figures.

Nº 1 — Coxite of *Phoniomyia esmeraldasi* n. sp.

Nº 2 — Mesosome of *Phoniomyia esmeraldasi* n. sp.

Nº 3 — Tenth sternite of *Phoniomyia esmeraldasi* n. sp.

Nº 4 — Ninth tergite of *Phoniomyia esmeraldasi* n. sp.

