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CONTRIBUTION TO KNOWLEDGE OF THE ANOPHELINE
FAUNA OF MAURITANIA

by

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During a malariometric survey carried out between December 1962 and April 1963 in the southern part of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania we searched for Anopheles larvae in the larval breeding places. Our search was conducted in a limited number of breeding places near the localities being surveyed and during the dry season. It produced results which are not without interest. These results have been plotted on an outline map of the country (Fig. 1).

Previous authors (Holstein, 1952; Sévenet et al., 1960) had reported the following species from Mauritania: A. gambiae, A. pharoensis, A. rufipes, A. d'thali and A. gambiae melas.

Except for A. gambiae melas - which in any case was outside our field of action - all the species mentioned were found and furthermore we added A. rhodesiensis to the list. We threw light on the area of geographical distribution of the main vector A. gambiae and its ability to adapt itself to the most varied larval breeding places. A. pharoensis, although widespread, shows a different distribution. It seems to be absent from the most easterly part of the area, but it extends beyond the area of distribution of A. gambiae in the north (N'beika), where it might be a vector, at least seasonally. The presence of A. rufipes in two places in Mauritania was confirmed.

Larvae of A. rhodesiensis were found in considerable density exclusively in the cold and shaded water of springs in the sandstone massifs (Moudjéria, Soufa, Ndiéo and the two Oumou Kréyat). It should, however, be noted that A. rhodesiensis has been found at two geographical extremities of the African continent: Somaliland¹ and Mauritania (Choumara, 1961; Maffi, 1958).

A. d'thali also occupies these two areas. In Somaliland it is found almost down to the Equator, for Salbai is 3°N (Maffi, 1958). In Mauritania it had been found at Ksar Torchane, at 20°42' N (Sévenet et al., 1960) which appeared to be its southerly limit. The finding of larval breeding places at Moudjéria (17°51' N) shows that the species extends considerably further to the south and since A. d'thali has been found in the same larval breeding places as A. rhodesiensis, although in the parts most exposed to the sun and richest in filamentous green algae, it is reasonable to suppose that A. d'thali also accompanies A. rhodesiensis further south in the sandstone massifs where the latter has been found.

A. d'thali has been reported as a possible secondary vector in Morocco (Saccà, 1960) and the Somali Republic (Rishikesh, 1961). The results obtained during our malarionometric survey at Moudjéria, covering 258 persons below 15 years of age, (spleen rate: 0; parasite rate: 0) do not seem to confirm this. It is probable that if A. d'thali is a vector at all, it only acts as one when it is present in considerable density.²

¹ Somaliland is used here purely in its geographical sense. Translator.

² In view of some recent records by Hamon et al. (1963) the author wishes to add the following footnote: "A. d'thali, a species found now increasingly often in areas near to the desert, seems to be occupying two territories; in Somaliland it is found close to the Equator (Salbai is at 3°40' N. lat.) while in Mauritania it is found at Ksar Torchane at 20°42' N. lat. which is its southern limit."

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