

**AEDES CACOTHIUS DYAR, A SYNONYM OF
AEDES VENTROVITTIS DYAR**
(DIPTERA: CULICIDAE)

Dyar (1923, *Ins. Insc. Mens.*, 11:44) described *Aedes cacothius* as a new species based on six biting females collected at Shoshone Point, 8,200 feet, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming. No larvae or adult males were collected. Dyar noted that the species "may be the Rocky Mountain representative of *Aedes ventrovittis* Dyar of the high elevations in the Sierras." *Aedes ventrovittis* was subsequently reported by Stage, Gjullin and Yates (1952, U. S. Dept. Agr. Handbook 46:66,85) from Fremont County, Idaho, in a locality less than 50 miles SW of the type locality of *A. cacothius*.

During July of 1963 and 1964, I collected extensively in the vicinity of Shoshone Point and obtained biting females of *Aedes hexodontus* Dyar, *Aedes impiger* (Walker), *Aedes pullatus* (Coquillett) and *A. ventrovittis*. The type locality is a large open meadow surrounded by coniferous forests. By far the most abundant species were *A. impiger* and *A. ventrovittis*, which made up 25% and 65% of the collections, respectively. No larvae were found, but sweeping collections of male *A. ventrovittis* were obtained. I revisited the area on July 3, 1965, and obtained larvae of *A. ventrovittis* in snow pools in the open meadow. They were associated with *A. impiger* and *A. pullatus*. On the same date I collected *A. ventrovittis* larvae near Grebe Lake, Yellowstone National Park, a locality 25 miles north of Shoshone Point. This collection was in a large meadow at 7,900 feet. The dominant associated species was *A. impiger*.

I obtained a loan of a female syntype of *A. cacothius* from Alan Stone of the U.S. Department of Agriculture at the U.S. National Museum. Dr. Stone informed me that three of the original six syntypes had been transferred to *A. impiger*, but that the three remaining, one of which had been designated the lectotype, were conspecific and belonged to another species. Careful comparison of the syntype with *A. ventrovittis* material from the type locality revealed them to be indistinguishable. *Aedes cacothius* Dyar should therefore be reduced to a synonym of *A. ventrovittis* Dyar.

Aedes ventrovittis appears to have a rather extensive distribution in the Rocky Mountains. On May 26, 1964, I collected larvae of *A. ventrovittis* in Logan Canyon, Cache County, Utah, at an elevation of 7,500 feet. The pool was a grassy roadside snow-melt pool in an open meadow. Associated *Aedes* larvae included *A. hexodontus*, *A. impiger* and *A. pullatus*. —LEWIS T. NIELSEN, Department of Biology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112.