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Edited by

PROFESSOR WARRINGTON YORKE, M.D., F.R.S.

PROFESSOR D. B. BLACKLOCK, M.D.

PROFESSOR W. S. PATTON, M.B.

PROFESSOR R. M. GORDON, M.D.

CASE I. In February, 1932, two Europeans in Freetown, together with their native servants, were bitten by a cat showing signs of rabies. Sections of the animal's brain showed the presence of Negri bodies in the ganglion cells.

CASE II. In December, 1932, we examined the brain of a dog from Mano in the Southern Province, which had bitten four natives before it could be killed. Negri bodies were demonstrated in sections of the brain, and the disease transferred successfully to guinea-pigs. The infection of these guinea-pigs is of some interest since the virus survived a 36 hours' journey, without ice, in the hottest season of the year.

R. M. GORDON.

E. P. HICKS.

T. H. DAVEY.

7 February, 1933.

THE IDENTITY OF *CULEX AEGYPTI* L.

In the recent edition of the 'Genera Insectorum' (1932), Dr. Edwards has changed the name of the yellow fever mosquito *Aedes (Stegomyia) fasciata* to *aegypti* without stating his reasons for doing so. In this connection, my attention has been drawn by Dr. Evans to a letter from Mr. Hopkins, in which he points out that Gough (1914) had already identified *Culex aegypti* L., as *Ochlerotatus caspius* Pallas (*dorsalis* Gough nec. Meigen). In doing so, Gough says: 'This is one of the commonest Culicine mosquitos in our collection, and as Linné's description of *Culex aegypti* fits it very well, there can remain very little doubt that it is really the same species, especially as there appears to be no other common Egyptian species fitting the description.'

This difference of opinion as to the identity of *Culex aegypti* calls for a re-examination of Linné's description, in order to see which of the two species it best fits. This seems to be all the more necessary when it is remembered that the name of this important mosquito has now been changed no less than three times, thereby introducing endless confusion into the medical literature of yellow fever, and there seems no reason to suppose that the name-hunter may not yet

find an even older one than that of *aegypti*. The following is Linné's description and a literal translation of it kindly given me by Professor Mountford.

'*Culex aegypti* articulationibus candidis. Magnitudo Culicis vulgaris Linn. Syst. N. I. Color ex fusco canus. Crura cana cum annulis candidis, parvis, circa articulationes et in articulis. Puncta candida ad marginem dorsi in corpore sub alis utrinque, plura, longitudinaliter sita. Annulus candidus ad basin thoracis, inter illum et corpus. Linea candida perpendicularis juxta oculos, utrinque una parva. Locus, Aegyptus, Culice communi rarior.'

'*Culex aegypti* with white articulations. The size of the common gnat. Colour grey from dusky (tawny shading into grey). Legs grey with white rings, small ones about (around) the articulations and in the joints. White spots on the edge of the back on the body, beneath the wings on each side, several of them, placed longitudinally. One white ring at the base of the thorax between it and the body. A white perpendicular line near the eyes, on each side a single small one. Place: Egypt, rarer than the common gnat.'

I have italicised the sentences which, in my opinion, are the most important in arriving at a conclusion as to the identity of *aegypti*. I will now take each part of the description and see whether it would apply either to *O. caspius* or *S. fasciata*. In making this comparison I have been able to examine some fresh specimens of *caspius* presented by Dr. H. H. Salem, Department of Parasitology, University of Cairo, Egypt.

Colour. 'Grey from dusky (tawny shading into grey).' This short terse description of the general colour fits *caspius* exactly. By no stretch of imagination can *fasciata* be said to be a 'grey from dusky' mosquito.

Legs. 'Grey with white rings, small ones about (around) the articulations and in the joints.' Here again this description of the colour of the legs fits *caspius* rather than *fasciata*, the legs of which are black, or dark brown with white apical bands.

Thorax. 'White spots at the edge of the back on the body, beneath the wings on each side, several of them placed longitudinally.' Given a somewhat wide latitude of interpretation of this description of the thorax, it might apply to both species, but, if anything, more to *caspius* than *fasciata*. In *caspius* almost the whole of the mesopleuron is covered with creamy scales, and in rubbed specimens they would appear as spots arranged longitudinally. In *fasciata* there are about six silvery spots on the mesopleuron well separated and arranged in the form of a triangle.

Abdomen. 'A white ring at the base of the thorax, between it and the body.' In *caspius* the first abdominal tergum projects as usual, and has a posterior band of creamy scales; this appearance suggests a white band between the thorax and abdomen. In *fasciata* the silvery scutellum may also be described as a white ring in the same situation:

Head. 'A white perpendicular line near the eyes, on each side a single small one.' This again would apply to the head markings of both species. In *caspius* there is a broad median area of creamy scales and a small creamy area near each eye. In *fasciata* the silvery markings are similarly arranged but are narrower.

It will be noted then that the description of *aegypti* would in the main apply to both species. The general colour and that of the legs, however, definitely rules out *S. fasciata*. Dr. Evans concurs in this opinion. This being the case, it is much to be regretted that due consideration was not given to Gough's opinion before the name of the yellow fever mosquito was changed to *aegypti*. I consider that the name *aegypti* should be dropped, and that the yellow fever mosquito be known in future as *Aedes (Stegomyia) fasciata*. I have already pointed out in Part 2 of my book, 'Insects, Ticks, Mites, etc.' (1931), that the name *argenteus* Poiret is also best dropped.

W. S. PATTON.

21 February, 1933.