

**LECTOTYPE DESIGNATION FOR *Aedes simici* (DIPTERA: CULICIDAE)**

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**Abstract**

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This paper discusses the status of three specimens of *Aedes simici* Baranov that are in the Canadian National Collection. One male labelled by Baranov as "typus" of this species, and one female labelled as a "cotypus", are shown to have no type-status. The remaining male is an authentic syntype and is designated the lectotype of *A. simici*. This species is left in synonymy with *A. pulchritarsis* Rondani.

In the course of preparing a paper on the Simuliidae described by Nikola Baranov and their extant types, now part of the Canadian National Collection in Ottawa (Crosskey and Peterson, in press), other Baranov types in the CNC came to my attention including three specimens of *Aedes simici*. The purpose of this paper is to announce the location of these specimens and to designate a lectotype for the species.

***Aedes simici* Baranov**

*Aedes simici* Baranoff,<sup>1</sup> 1927, Neue Beitr. Syst. Insektenk. 4: 15 (German). Lectotype ♂, by present designation, Yugoslavia: Serbia, village of Schischevo near Skoplje, 19.VI.1927 (C. Simié) (CNC).

Baranov described this species from 7 ♂♂, 9 ♀♀, and an unmentioned number of larval specimens. There are 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀ of this species in the Canadian National Collection. Baranov cited the collection data as follows: "Patria: Dorf Schischevo bei Skoplje. Larven V. 1927; Imagines VI.1927 (7 ♂♂ und 9 ♀♀)"; however, only Skoplje plus the date appear on his labels. The male selected as the lectotype is clearly one of the original syntypes because the locality and collection date correspond to that published by Baranov and it also bears his "cotypus" label. One male from the same locality but bearing the date 8.VIII.1927, has Baranov's "determination – Typus" label fixed to it. This specimen probably was obtained after Baranov had submitted his paper for publication and is not considered to have type-status because its collection date is later than the date listed in his paper for the adults. The single female, also from the type locality, has a collection date (4.VII.1927) of at least 4 days later than that stated by Baranov and likewise is not considered to have type-status even though it bears a "cotypus" label. If it can be demonstrated that the latter two specimens are actually syntypes then they would have status as paralectotypes.

The location of the remaining syntypes is not known. The larval syntypes were preserved in alcohol and probably were lost in Vienna at the end of the Second World War (Baranov in letter to Mr. G. E. Shewell dated March 4, 1954). Baranov stated his types of this species were deposited in the collection of the Institute of Hygiene in Skoplje, and Stone *et al.* (1959) also list this institute as the type depository. I have been unable to confirm the presence of any syntypes in this institution.<sup>2</sup> If any other syntypes of *Aedes simici* are eventually located, they will have paralectotype status.

<sup>1</sup>Baranov spelt his own name with either a terminal 'v' or 'ff' in his papers . . . but almost always used the 'ff' ending on his type labels and determination labels; . . . (Sabrosky and Crosskey, 1969).

<sup>2</sup>NOTE ADDED IN PROOF: After this paper was in proof, Dr. J. Keckaroska informed the author that the Institute of Hygiene did not possess any of Nikola Baranov's mosquito or black fly collections, and if it ever housed any of Baranov's collections they were destroyed during the great earthquake which hit Skoplje in 1963 and completely destroyed that institute.

Martini (1930) and Stone *et al.* (1959) considered *A. simici* to be a synonym of *A. (Ochlerotatus) pulchritarsis* (Rondani). Dr. Stone kindly compared the lectotype and the other two topotypes of *A. simici* with specimens of *A. pulchritarsis* from Greece and Iran, and stated (pers. comm.) that they agreed very well. He also mentioned that it is difficult to separate *A. berlandi* Séguy and *A. pulchritarsis* on the basis of color alone so that one could not rule out the possibility that these specimens are *A. berlandi*. However, on the basis of locality<sup>3</sup> they would be *A. pulchritarsis* and there seems to be no good reason for overthrowing the established synonymy.

### References

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- Stone, A., K. L. Knight, and H. Starcke. 1959. A synoptic catalog of the mosquitoes of the world (Diptera, Culicidae). The Thomas Say Foundation, Vol. 6, 358 pp.

<sup>3</sup>Stone *et al.* (1959) lists the following distributions of these species: *Aedes pulchritarsis*: South-central Europe, Morocco, Tunisia, Iran, Kazakh S.S.R., Pakistan, Thailand. *A. berlandi*: France, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Turkey, Sardinia, Corsica, Morocco, Algeria.

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