

ABSTRACT:

Culex (Melanoconion) caudelli (Dyar and Knab) was separated from Culex sp. No. 17 using egg, larval, pupal and adult characteristics. The eggs are described and illustrated for the first time. The seasonal distribution was estimated using three transects of three mouse-baited Trinidad No. 17 traps per trap-line. These traps were operated for 52 weeks. Ninety-eight percent of C. caudelli were collected during the wet season and two percent during the dry season. At night, these mosquitoes were attracted to mammals at ground level. Spatial distribution studies suggested that 67 percent of the mosquitoes sampled preferred the fringe areas rather than the forest (32%) or open savannah areas (1%). Culex caudelli was successfully reared for the first time in the laboratory from egg to adult. The life-cycle took an average of 26 days. The eggs hatched in 2 days while the duration of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th instars, averaged 3,4,5 and 8 days respectively. Pupal development took an average of 4 days after which the adult mosquitoes emerged. It was suggested that C. caudelli may be a vector of arboviruses in the Aripo-Wallerfield area.