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A NEW SPECIES OF *Aedes* FROM SAN CRISTOBAL, BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE¹

By **Brian Taylor**²

Abstract: *Aedes (Finlaya) horotoi* Taylor, n. sp. is described from 2 females taken biting man at Manita-waniuhi, San Cristobal, Solomon Islands.

During the course of surveys to delineate the distribution of malaria vector species on the island of San Cristobal, Mr Sosimo Horoto, a senior technician of the national Malaria Eradication Program, collected 2 adult females of a hitherto unnamed species of the *Aedes (Finlaya) kochi* group. Belkin (1962: 386) briefly describes a single damaged female with the label May 10, 1934, R. A. Lever; BMNH, but merely lists it as Species 24, Malaupaina form.

I have endeavoured to trace this specimen but Mattingly (pers. commun.) is unable to indicate its present whereabouts. The fact that the original specimen was damaged would, however, preclude a full description and I feel justified in publishing this description as a new species.

The current specimens were collected at Manita-waniuhi village in the Bauro sub-district on the

north coast of San Cristobal Island. Lever's specimen came from Malaupaina, which is the largest of the group of islands known as the Three Sisters, lying off-shore some 30 km NE of Manita-waniuhi. I have searched the axils of pandanus and taro plants growing in the Kira Kira area on San Cristobal but so far have not found any species of the *Aedes (Finlaya) kochi* group.

***Aedes (Finlaya) horotoi* Taylor, n. sp.**

Aedes (Finlaya) sp., Malaupaina form of Belkin (1962: 386).

Aedes (Finlaya) samoana, in part, of Insects of Samoa (1935: 109).

♀. *Wing*: 2.65 mm. *Proboscis*: 1.57 mm. *Forefemur*: 1.61 mm. *Abdomen*: 2.80 mm. Characters in general as for *kochi* group (Belkin 1962).

Head: Light scaling dingy white; median longitudinal stripe restricted to a few narrow white scales; decumbent scales of vertex very dark, almost black; erect scales all dark; labium with broad golden yellow median ring about 0.3 of proboscis length, apical light ring narrow; palpus with a few apical white scales on segment 4. *Thorax*: Mesonotum scale pattern indistinct, pale scales narrow, golden yellow, prominent on anterior promontory; scutellum with dingy white broad scales on all lobes, midlobe with a few dark scales apically; paratergite with white scales; pleural scales largely pure white, *psp* with narrow band of scales, *pra* with scales above and below bristles, lower *mep* with 1 elongate dark scale. *Legs*: Femora and tibiae barred with white to yellowish

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scales, lighter on hind leg; femoral preapical tufts conspicuous on fore and mid femora, absent on hind femur; tarsal segment 1 of all legs with basal, mid and apical light rings, yellowish on fore and mid tarsi, white on hind tarsus; foretarsal segment 2 with apical yellowish scaling, segments 3 and 4 entirely dark, segment 5 all light; midtarsal segment 2 with apical 1/3 yellowish, segment 3 with narrow apical light ring, segment 4 all dark, segment 5 all light; hindtarsal segments 2 and 3 with broad apical white rings, segment 4 all dark, segment 5 all white; dark scales dark brown on fore and mid tarsi, black on hind tarsus. *Wing*: Dark in appearance, light scaling dingy white; base of vein C completely dark, prehumeral light spot absent, accessory subcostal pale area well developed on C and R₁, small preapical dark spot. *Haltere*: Knob with dark scales above. *Abdomen*: Patches of light scales on all tergites more extensive and beige on distal tergites, pattern indistinct, post median lateral white patches; sternites with basal lateral patches of white scales, no apical tufts.

♂, *Pupa and Larva*. Unknown.

Type data: 2 ♀♀ examined. Holotype ♀ (T/0392), Manitanuhi, San Cristobal, Solomon Islands, taken biting man, 6.III.1971, E. S. Horoto (Bishop 9705). Paratype ♀ (T/0393), same data as holotype. Both specimens are deposited in the Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Hawaii. This species is dedicated to E. Sosimo Horoto for his invaluable assistance to the author.

Systematics: *A. horotoi* would seem to be

clearly distinguishable from other members of the *kochi* group. The species can be easily identified using the key for adults of the subgenus *Finlaya* as given by Belkin (1962: 341) where the determination is 24. Malaupaina form. The paratype specimen shows a much greater degree of light scaling on the median longitudinal area of the vertex.

Bionomics: The 2 adults from which I have prepared this description were both collected during the course of a night man-biting catch (1830 hr to 2330 hr). No comment can be made on the disease relations.

Distribution: Solomon Islands: San Cristobal and Malaupaina Island.

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