

MEX

*John F. Reinert*  
~~JOHN F. REINERT~~

## A NEW SPECIES OF *Aedes* FROM SAN CRISTOBAL, BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE<sup>1</sup>

By **Brian Taylor**<sup>2</sup>

**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

<sup>1</sup>Publication costs were paid by Research Grant No. AI-07917-05, National Institutes of Health, U. S. Public Health Service, to Bishop Museum.

<sup>2</sup>Government Entomologist, Medical Department, P. O. Box 349, Honiara, British Solomon Islands Protectorate.

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 R<sub>1</sub>, 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.

*Acknowledgments*: I would like to thank Dr J. D. Macgregor, Director of Medical Services, B. S. I. P., for permission to publish this paper and Dr Wallace Steffan for his assistance.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- Belkin, J. N.** 1962. *The Mosquitoes of the South Pacific*. Univ. of Calif. Press, Berkeley **1**: 608 p. and **2**: 412 p.  
**Insects of Samoa.** 1935. Part IX. Fasc. 3. Addenda et Corrigenda. Index. London, Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.), p. 105-59.