

A NEW MUTATION IN *CULEX PIPENS FATIGANS*,
WIEDEMANN, AFFECTING THE ADULT EYE

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A spontaneously arising mutation affecting the eyes of adult *Culex pipiens fatigans*, Wiedemann, the mosquito vector of urban filariasis in Sri Lanka has been isolated from a mosquito colony which has been inbred in the laboratory for twenty one generations.

The eyes of the mutant form are opaque and rough in appearance and black in colour, in contrast to the wild type eye which is transparent, smooth and green tinged dark brown in colour.

From a pure breeding stock of this mutant the following crosses were carried out in order to establish its mode of inheritance:

- (1). Reciprocal crosses of mutant to wild type and their F_1 intercrosses were made, and their F_2 progeny was scored.
- (2). The above F_1 mosquitos were back crossed reciprocally to the pure breeding mutant stock and their progeny was scored.

The above experimental crosses indicate that this mutation is probably autosomal and recessive and of variable penetrance. It has also been observed that the presence of the mutant gene tends to increase mortality.

This mutation, to the knowledge of the authors, has not been previously described and recorded.