

**UNISEGMENTED TARSI (UST) - A MORPHOLOGICAL
MUTANT OF THE LEG OF CULEX PIPIENS
FATIGANS WIEDEMANN**

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Collection of egg rafts of *Culex pipiens fatigans* Wiedemann, the mosquito vector of urban filariasis in Sri Lanka, was made at frequent intervals from a few localities outside Colombo and these were inbred in the laboratory for four generations in a systematic search for mutants. From one such egg raft a spontaneously arising mutant was discovered and isolated.

This was a morphological mutant affecting the tarsal joint of the last two pairs of legs. Instead of there being five segments for the tarsus as in the normal mosquito, there was only a single tarsal joint and this was shorter than the first tarsal segment of the normal leg. This mutant has not been described previously and we have named it, '*Unisegmented tarsi*' and is assigned the symbol "ust".

Genetic crosses of the mutant were carried out in order to find its mode of inheritance. These crosses indicate that it is due to a single, autosomal, recessive gene. Its penetrance is complete but expressivity is variable.

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