

A PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF THE MOSQUITOES BREEDING IN THE
SINHARAJA M.A.B. RESERVE

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A systematic survey of the mosquito fauna of a rainforest in Sri Lanka was carried out at the Sinharaja Man and Biosphere Reserve during a period of 18 months in 1984-86. The main natural breeding habitats of the mosquitoes were found to be tree holes, pitchers of Nepenthes distillatoria Linnaeus and ground water habitats. Artificial bamboo traps were also used to survey container breeding species.

The tree hole habitat, from which 4 species were recorded, was dominated by Orthopodomyia flavithorax Barraud, and Culex uniformis (Theobald) while the pitchers were utilised exclusively by Tripteroides dofleini (Günther) and Armigeres magnus (Theobald). Six species were observed breeding in bamboo traps, the prevalent species here being Tp.affinis (Edwards), Ar.subalbatus (Coquillett) and Cx.uniformis. Ground water habitats yielded 21 species of mosquitoes, the commonly occurring species being Uranotaenia gouldi Peyton & Klein, Aedes macdougalli Edwards, Ae. pseudomediofasciatus (Theobald) and Cx. wardi (Sirivanakam).

On the whole, 27 species were recorded breeding in the forest. Five additional species were recorded from adult collections giving a total of 32 species observed in the forest to date.

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