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BIONOMICS OF *ANOPHELES (CELLIA) VAGUS* IN KANDY

N B Munasingha and F P Amerasinghe
Dept. of Zoology, University of Peradeniya

A two year (1984-86) survey of the anopheline fauna of Kandy has shown Anopheles (Cellia) vagus Donitz, an efficient carrier of human malaria parasites in the laboratory, to be the most prevalent species in the area. over 14,000 adult females were collected from bait collections (cattle and human), resting collections (outdoor and indoor) and light traps.

The study showed cattle bait to be the most efficient collection method, followed by light trap, cattle shed, outdoor and dwelling house collections. Biting activity was greater at cattle than at human bait (58:1 ratio) and outdoor than indoor sites (6:1 ratio), showing the species to be zoophagic and exophagic. The nocturnal biting cycle was markedly unimodal with a sharp peak representing > 50% of the specimens being observed in the hour after sunset. The species exhibited a clear seasonality, being most prevalent during the north-east monsoonal period.

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