

A NEW NAME FOR A CALIFORNIA MOSQUITO

(Diptera, Culcidae)

BY B. BROOKMAN¹ AND W. C. REEVES

*The George Williams Hooper Foundation for Medical Research,
University of California, Medical Center, San Francisco*

P. Galindo, in an unpublished thesis (Contribution to our knowledge of the genus *Culex* in California, Master of Science Thesis, Division of Entomology and Parasitology, University of California, Berkeley, 1943, pp. 49-55) proposed the name *Culex (Neoculex) reevesi* for a hitherto unknown species of mosquito from the coastal region of California. Wirth included *C. reevesi* Galindo in keys to the Culicidae of California (*in* Usinger, R. L., La Rivers, I., Chandler, H. P., and Wirth, W. W., Biology of Aquatic and Littoral Insects, University of California Syllabus Series, Syllabus SS. University of California Press, Berkeley, March, 1948, p. 230 and 231) in the mistaken assumption that the name had been published. Apparently Wirth based his diagnosis of the species on Galindo's unpublished description. However, since these keys were validly published in a form which complies with recent opinions of the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature, meeting in Paris in 1948 (Usinger, personal communication), the name *C. reevesi* Wirth must hold under the rules of priority as being the first published for that particular species.

R. M. Bohart (The subgenus *Neoculex* in America north of Mexico, Ann. Entomol. Soc. Am., 41(3): 342, Sept., 1948) described what he believed to be the same species as that of Galindo, and, in deference to Mr. Galindo, retained the name, *C. reevesi*. However, we have found this species to differ from *C. reevesi* Wirth both in adult and in larval characters and consider it another species. Therefore, *C. reevesi* Bohart becomes a primary homonym of *C. reevesi* Wirth.

In order to clarify this situation, the present authors wish to designate *Culex boharti* Brookman and Reeves, n.n. for *C. reevesi* Bohart, September, 1948 (not *C. reevesi* Wirth, March, 1948).

¹Sanitarian (R), Communicable Disease Center, Public Health Service, Federal Security Agency, Atlanta, Ga.

A complete description of *C. reevesi* Wirth will be published by us in a forthcoming paper, "New records of mosquitoes from Lower California, Mexico, with descriptions of *Culex* (*Neoculex*) *reevesi* Wirth and the immature stages of *Culex* (*Melanoconion*) *anips* Dyar."

BOOK NOTICE

The Nature of Natural History. By Marston Bates. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. [10+] 309 p. 1950. Price \$3.50.

This is a book written to popularize science, to reveal its methods and motives, its techniques and philosophy, as applied to natural history. It succeeds admirably, helped by Dr. Bates' clarity and humor, and by being written in the first person. Yet it is equally a book for scientists, and especially for entomologists. The thought-provoking ideas and broad viewpoint, the simplification and summarization necessary for his purpose, are helpful to the student who has read voluminously but become lost in the details and failed to emerge with basic principles.

The first half of the book is expository, and moves a little slowly for the naturalist, but is essential for a wide audience. The rest is more philosophical. The author has spent years in the neotropics—indeed most of the manuscript was written at Villavicencio, Colombia—and has been impressed less by the idea of nature red in tooth and claw, than by the cooperation between organisms and within populations. This thought is being expressed widely these days, as in Ashley Montagu's "On Being Human." Whole paragraphs from Bates' book would not sound at all out of place in Overstreet's "The Mature Mind."

In his own words, the first three-quarters of the book discusses "the naming and cataloguing of organisms; their reproduction and development; their relations with the environment and their organization into populations and communities; and finally, their evolution, the explanation of the diversity of organic form and of its fitness or adaptation." For the last he apologizes as follows: "The project is, furthermore, dangerous, because all of my colleagues will read this book (not for information, but to find what mistakes I have made—I do the same thing with their books) and none will agree with the emphasis or the point of view, and they will be volubly dismayed at the topics I have neglected. I am caught, though, because it would be unthinkable to write a book on natural history without a chapter on evolution."

The last three chapters treat on the application of science, its relation to human economy; scientists themselves, personal quirks and all; and the nature of the scientific method. There are 7 pages of annotated selected references, and a full index in 11 pages.

—HUGH B. LEECH.