

## A NEW AMERICAN MOSQUITO.

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Throughout the northern part of the United States and probably throughout the southern part of Canada is found a group of mosquitoes belonging to Theobald's *Grabhamia* in which, so far at least as the adults are concerned, some species run very closely together, the markings of the individuals in one species closely resembling those of another, so closely indeed that the line of division is not easily seen.

The common characteristic is the abdominal marking, which may be said to be light colored, with a pair of submedian dark spots on some—at times all—the segments. Here too, the individual variation in a given species is very great, as for example *G. Curriei* Coq., where these spots may occur as in the type, or on a couple less or on one or two more of the segments.

The forms which run most closely together have also banded legs, the banding including both sides of the joints on some if not all the legs, e. g. *G. Curriei* Coq. *G. lativittata* Coq. and the final hind tarsus is often light when seen from one direction and brown from another, so that it is just possible that *dorsalis* Meigin. may be found among them.

What the larval differences may be is only partly known, and the division into coast and inland species does not seem satisfactory, for specimens which cannot be distinguished from *lativittata* Coq. (originally taken on the Pacific coast) are taken in Wyoming where no salt water nor salt marshes exist, and taken in numbers that seem to preclude the idea of transportation. Other forms, evidently very intimately related to *Curriei*, Coq. possibly a smaller and much lighter variety of it, are taken further east, even on the Atlantic coast, and the ultimate placing of these is still to be worked out. It may be that larval differences will decide.

*Grabhamia Spencerii* Theobald, and *G. Spencerii* var. *Idahoensis* have unbanded legs, and lately there has been studied a form apparently new, from Fort Keogh, Montana, which has the legs basally banded only, but in no wise resembles *solicitans*.

*Grabhamia nigromaculis* n. sp.

♀. Head very dark brown, almost black, covered with ochraceous broad curved scales on the vertex and occiput, a triangular spot of slender golden brown curved scales immediately laterad, followed

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by flat, white, then brown, lateral scales and light scales towards the ventral surface; white bristles and very slender, long scales projecting forward between the eyes, a heavy bunch of pale forked scales in the nape; antennae dark brown, verticels very dark brown and sparse, pubescence white, basal joint very dark brown with flat scales; palpi very dark brown; proboscis very dark brown with a tiny white spot (sometimes an indistinct white band) on the apical part of the proximal third of its length, a few white scales at the base, apex dark; eyes dark blue, red iridescence; clypeus very dark.

Thorax almost black; prothoracic lobes covered with long rather slender spatulate white scales and light bristles; mesothorax with a median third of slender curved golden brown scales, pale on the curved half, and the outer thirds with rather broader pale ochraceous scales; a bunch of pale bristles over the wing joint and a few dark ones near the "bare space;" scutellum very dark (black) with pale ochraceous slender curved scales and pale bristles; pleura very dark brown with white spindle shaped and long flat scales, and pale bristles; metanotum very dark brown.

Abdomen very dark, covered with very dark brown, practically black, and pale ochraceous scales, i. e., pale basal and very narrow apical bands, a median ochraceous stripe on most of the segments, white lateral spots and a few pale scales scattered in the dark submedian spots; the dark spots on the apical segments are much reduced so that these segments are mostly pale scaled. Venter mostly pale scaled.

Legs: Coxae and trochanter dark, covered mostly with white scales, a few very dark ones and some dark bristles; femora ventrally light, dorsally speckled nearly evenly black and white, light towards the base, and almost black just proximal to the tiny apical light spot which very slightly includes both sides of the joint; tibiae much as femora, more distinctly dark towards the apex; metatarsi speckled, darker than the tibiae, and having a basal white band, very narrow in the fore leg; all the tarsal joints are dark and in the fore and mid legs the first and second tarsal joints have tiny basal white spots; in the hind legs all the tarsal joints are basally white banded, the band on the fourth joint very narrow. Ungues large and equal, both uniserrate.

Wings clear with dark brown and white scales, speckled; the ventral scales all white. First, submarginal cell a little longer than, and about half the width of the second posterior cell; *mid* and supernumerary cross veins meet and are about equal, posterior cross vein about the same length as, and its own length distant from *mid*. Halteres with light stem and dark knob.

Length. 8-8.5 mm.

Habitat. Fort Keogh, Montana, Fort Lincoln, N. D.

Taken. Fort Keogh, Sept. 1-8, July 12-27.