

**On the Status of *Aedes (Ochlerotatus) fryeri* (Theobald)
and *Aedes (Ochlerotatus) mombasaensis* Mattingly.**

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Aedes fryeri, type locality Aldabra Island, Indian Ocean, was described by Theobald in 1912 and 2 *Aedes* larvae from Aldabra were attributed to this species and described by Hopkins (1936). Later Edwards (1941) ascribed the East African coastal *Ochlerotatus* to this species but when it was discovered that the larvae of these differed from those attributed to *Ae. fryeri*, the East African specimens were described as *Ae. (Och.) mombasaensis* (Mattingly, 1963).

In 1969 I received some mosquitoes collected by A. Hudson and B. Cogan, members of the Royal Society Expedition to Aldabra and among the adults were a number of *Ae. fryeri* and other *Aedes* of the subgenus *Aedimorphus*. Of the larvae some ran down to *Ae. fryeri* as described by Hopkins and others were as described for *Ae. mombasaensis*. Although no adults with associated pelts were obtained, some of the *Aedimorphus* were hatched from a batch of the supposedly *Ae. fryeri* larvae.

Through the kind offices of Dr. P.F. Mattingly, British Museum (Natural History), London, I was able to examine the 2 Aldabra larvae described as *Ae. fryeri* by Hopkins. These are undoubtedly the same as the larvae from which the abovementioned *Aedimorphus* were hatched and therefore were wrongly attributed to *Ae. fryeri*. In view of this it seems very probable that the *Ae. mombasaensis* larvae collected by the Royal Society expedition are the young stages of *Ae. fryeri* and thus, the reason for considering *Ae. mombasaensis* a separate species, no longer applies. Also a comparison of *Ae. fryeri* from Aldabra and *Ae. mombasaensis* from the Kenya coast showed no morphological differences in the female and since the male terminalia of the Aldabra *Ae. fryeri* are the same as those of *Ae. mombasaensis*, it is concluded that *Ae. mombasaensis* must be considered a synonym of *Ae. fryeri*.

References

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