Discovery of *Anopheles tessellatus* in Ryukyu Islands*

*Ichiro MIYAGI*

*Department of Medical Zoology, Institute for Tropical Medicine, Nagasaki University and Department of Medical Zoology, Nagasaki University School of Medicine (Director : Prof. N. OMORI)*

*Shigeo IHA*

*Naha Health Center (Director : Dr. S. IHA)*

*Takao KISHIMOTO*

*Ryukyu National Hygienic Laboratory (Director : Dr. F. MIYAGI)*

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*Anopheles (Cellia) tessellatus* is a common and zoophilic mosquito in the Oriental region, but it has been unknown from Ryukyu Islands. As we have found this mosquito in Okinawamain-land and Iriomote-jima, Ryukyu Is, a brief account should be given below about this species.

*Anopheles (Cellia) tessellatus* Theobald


*Anopheles formosae* Hatori 1901, Kampo, No. 5534 : 275 (Type-locality : Taihoku, Formosa).

*Anopheles deceptor* Dönitz 1902, Zeit. Hyg. 41 : 60 (Type-locality : Sumatera).


*Anopheles kinoshitai* Koidzumi 1917, Zool. Mag. (Japan) 29 : 133 (Type-locality : Taihoku, Formosa).


*Myzomyia tessellatus* (Theobald) : Yamada 1925,

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Ichiro MIYAGI, Shigeo IHA and Takao KISHIMOTO


Distribution: - In Ryukyu Is., Okinawa-main-land and Iriomote-jima. This species has also been reported from Formosa, China (South), Thailand, Hainan, Malaya, Borneo, Burma, Celebes, Ceylon, India, Java, Indo-china, Moluccas, New Guinea, Philippine Is.

Systematics: - The specimens collected in Ryukyu Islands agree well with description of *tessellatus* of Christophers (1933) and with Formosan specimens kindly sent by Mr. C. J. Lien. This mosquito is characterized by the following aspects. Terminology used for description conforms to that of Belkin (1962), except that of ornamentation of wing which conforms to that of Christophers (1933).

Female Palpus: Segment 2 with a narrow apical pale band and with some pale scales dorsally near base; segment 3 with a broad apical pale band extending the apical half of the segment and with some pale scales dorso-basally; segment 4 with apical broad pale band extending the apical 2/3 of the segment; segment 5 with a pale band extending the apical half of the segment. Proboscis: Apical half with pale scales entirely except for a narrow subapical dark ring. Wing: Vein C with seven pale spots, the apical, preapical, subcostal and sector pale spots large, the basal three small. Legs: Femora, tibiae and tarsal segments 1 of all legs dark, speckled with pale scales; tibiae with a few apical pale scales; fore-tarsi with segment 1 pale ringed at apex and segments 2-4 pale ringed at both ends; mid- and hind-tarsi with segments 1-4 pale ringed at apex.

Judging from the literatures (Yamada 1925, Christophers 1933 and Belkin 1962), *tessellatus* is much like *Anopheles punctulatus* Dönitz occurring in New Guinea and Solomon Is., but is immediately distinguishable from the latter by the color of proboscis and by the scutum without broad recumbent scales except on anterior promontary and near wing root.

So far as we are aware, six anopheline mosquito species (including one subspecies), *Anopheles* (*Anopheles*) *aitkenii bengalensis* Puri, *An. (An.) ohamai* Ohama, *An. (An.) saperoi* Bohart, *An. (An.) sinensis* Wied., *An. (Cellia) minimus* Theobald, and *An. (C.) tessellatus* Theobald, have been recorded from Ryukyu Is. (including Amami Is.). They may be distinguishable from each other by the following key: -

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1. Wing without pale spot; palpus without pale band (recorded from Amami Is.) ……………………………………… *aitkenii bengalensis* 
   - Wing with pale spots; palpus with or without pale band. ……………………………………… 2

2. Femora, tibiae and 1st tarsal segments of all legs speckled; apical half of proboscis pale scaled (Okinawa-main-land; Iriomote-jima)…………………………………… *tessellatus* 
   - Legs not speckled; proboscis uniformly brown to black…………………………………… 3

3. Smaller species; wing with four distinct pale spots and a very small basal pale interruption on vein C; all legs uniformly dark
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(Miyako-jima ; Ishigaki-jima ; Iriomote-jima) *minimus*

- Larger species; wing with two or three pale spots on vein C; 1st and 2nd tarsal segments with apical pale bands or joint bands

4. Palpus with four narrow pale rings; wing usually with a pale fringe spot opposite vein 5 (throughout Ryukyu Is.) *sinensis*

- Palpus dark uniformly, without pale ring; wing usually without pale fringe spot opposite vein 5

5. Tibiae and tarsi with narrow apical pale bands; wing with a pale subcostal spot which is as long as the preapical pale spot (Ishigaki-jima ; Iriomote-jima) *ohamai* *

- Tarsi with narrow apical and basal pale bands, indistinct on last two joints of fore- and mid-legs; wing with a very small subcostal pale spot and with a distinct preapical pale spot (Okinawa-main-land ; Ishigaki-jima) *saperoi*

Biology: *tessellatus* appears to be widely distributed throughout Ryukyu Islands, but not common. We have not encountered the larva and pupa of the species in the Islands.

In Formosa, *tessellatus* is a common and zoophilic mosquito. The larva commonly breeds in rice fields and streams.

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References


12) Omori, N.: Observations on the nocturnal

*No specimen of the species has been examined by us.*


