



Mosquito Surveillance Report

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Introduction

In contrast to June, which was unusually wet this year, July had less rainfall than normal. Overall mosquito populations were low to moderate in most areas of the state, but others experienced especially heavy populations.

Salt Marsh Mosquitoes

There were two broods of Aedes sollicitans during July. The first brood emerged around July 12 and was the heavier of the two broods on the Delaware Bay. The second brood (the heavier of the two along most of the Atlantic Coast) hatched with the moon tide of July 20. The adults emerged the last few days of July and caused considerable annoyance in early August. With the presence of Eastern encephalitis activity in New Jersey, the last brood of Ae. sollicitans posed a potential health threat along much of the coast.

Ae. cantator was still present in low numbers during July. This is somewhat unusual and the reasons for the persistence of this species is unclear. Culex salinarius populations are increasing in all coastal areas. August is classically the peak month for this species, but biting activity can be expected well into October.

Floodwater and Culex Mosquitoes

Population levels of Ae. vexans varied considerably in different parts of the state during July. According to trap records, some areas of northeastern New Jersey had the highest levels of this species in years. In general, the central part of the state had moderate to low populations. The variations were apparently due to rainfall fluctuation in different parts of the state. The last two years have been drier than normal and this may influence the perception of annoyance by the public. Numerous complaints accompanied what appeared to be relatively average biting populations.

Culex mosquitoes, which do not depend on rainfall as much as the floodwater species, continue to increase. Trap records, however, show that the Culex sp. are about average for this time of year.

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List of Personnel

Project Leader: Wayne J. Crans

Mosquito Program Acting Director: Harry D. Brown

Associate Mosquito Program Staff: Donald J. Sutherland Roy K. Sofield
Linda McCuiston Steve Racioppe
Joseph K. Shisler Dennis Hajek
Daniel Sprenger

Cooperating State Health Personnel: Epid.& Dis. Control Division of Labs
David Kirsh Wayne Pizutti
Ronald Altman Bernard Taylor
William Parkin Consumer Health
Terry Schulze Dave Adam
Walter Gusciora

Cooperating State Mosquito Control
Commission Personnel: Kenneth W. Bruder
Robert B. Kent

Cooperating County Mosquito Control
Superintendents: Jeffrey Curtain, Atlantic County
Brian Gooley, Burlington County
Judy Hansen, Cape May County
Pat Slavin, Cumberland County
Tom Candeletti, Ocean County
Bill Fisher, Salem County

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Prepared by: Dr. Wayne J. Crans
Mosquito Research and Control
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station
Cook College, P. O. Box 231
New Brunswick, N.J. 08903

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Freshwater Swamp Mosquitoes

Populations of Cq. perturbans were high in many parts of the state during July. This species normally shows a late July or early August peak in most years. Light trap records for Cs. melanura agree with the resting box studies to show that the species is about average for this time of year. Certain local areas, however, show exceptionally high counts and an influx of newly emerged Cs. melanura can be expected within the next month.

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PROGRAM STAFF

Mosquito Identification Specialist:	Roy K. Sofield	
Mosquito Program Acting Director:	Dr. Harry D. Brown	
Associate Mosquito Program Staff:	Garrett Pezzeca	Linda McCuiston
	Dr. Bin Khoo	Dr. Joseph Shisler
	Dr. Donald Sutherland	
State Mosquito Control Commission:	Aaron Rappaport	Dave Adam
	Leonard Spiegel	Frank F. Wallace
	James Gaspari	Robert Fothergill
	Theodore Czech	Harry D. Brown
Department of Environmental Protection:	Dr. Kenneth W. Bruder	
	Robert B. Kent	
Cooperating County Mosquito Control Commissions:	Atlantic	Middlesex
	Bergen	Monmouth
	Burlington	Morris
	Camden	Ocean
	Cape May	Passaic
	Cumberland	Salem
	Essex	Somerset
	Gloucester	Sussex
	Hudson	Union
	Mercer	Warren
Project Leader:	Dr. Wayne J. Crans	