New Jersey Vector Surveillance

NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
MOSQUITO RESEARCH AND CONTROL

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Introduction

No EEE virus has been isolated from any of the mosquito samples collected in New Jersey to date, but HJ virus appeared in a number of samples collected during the first week of July. Since presumptive equine cases have been reported from Florida, together with EEE isolations from Culiseta melanura in that state, the possibility of epornitic activity in the northeast appears likely. Wild bird bloods collected from the Dennisville site show relatively little in the way of antibody to EEE. The results were expected since EEE virus was extremely low at that site last year. The one major surprise of the season is the extremely low populations of Coquillettidia perturbans at the study sites. Light trap counts as well as special collections have been much lower than average for this time of year. No explanation can be offered for the apparent drop in numbers.

THE STATUS OF EEE AND ITS MOSQUITO VECTORS

Cs. melanura populations remain about average for this time of year at each of the sites that are being monitored with resting boxes. Table 1 compares resting box counts for the 3rd week of July with the 7 year mean for this time period. The counts appear about average with no indication of any abrupt change in the near future. Parous rates of 25-30% were recorded at Dennisville over the past week indicating that fresh specimens are still being introduced into the population.

Table 1. No. Cs. melanura per resting box at the 3 sites being monitored in New Jersey.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDY SITE</th>
<th>PRESENT POPULATION</th>
<th>7 YR. AVE.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greenbank</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>4.3*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dennisville</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*7 yr. average compiled from New Gretna site.
KEY
• Landing Rates
□ Resting Boxes
◆ Sentinel Flocks
▼ Bird Bleeding

NEW JERSEY
SCALE—STATUTE MILES
0 5 10 15 20 25
Virus isolation data show that HJ virus appeared in Cs. melanura at the Dennisville site very late in June with isolations June 25, July 1 and July 3. In past years, HJ activity has been followed with evidence of EEE within 1-2 weeks. As a result, the virus isolation data will be closely monitored over the next several weeks. No data are yet available from the sentinel chicken flocks that are being monitored for EEE.

Cq. perturbans populations have been puzzling this year with unexplainable low light trap counts throughout the State. Special collections using dry ice have failed to collect large enough numbers for meaningful virus isolation attempts. Winter collections indicated large numbers of larvae at most locations, thus, the absence of adults suggests late spring mortality. The low populations of Cq. perturbans indicate low vector potential at the inland areas where EEE posed problems last year. It will be interesting to see if equine cases can occur under the present conditions.

Aedes sollicitans populations have been somewhat lower than average at most locations along the coast this year. The last brood has reached 85-100% parity with biting populations that are rapidly subsiding. The next major flooding will occur on July 23. The resulting brood should emerge during the first week of August.
Project Leader
Dr. Wayne J. Crans

Director, Mosquito Research and Control
Dr. Donald J. Sutherland

Associate Mosquito Program Staff
Thomas Burroughs
Jim Giovanelli
Linda McCuiston
Leigh Zawell

Cooperative State/County Personnel

SNJ Health Department
Ronald Altman
David Kirsh
William Parkin
Terry Schulze

Epid & Dis
Wayne Pizutti
Bernard Taylor

Div. of Labs
Consumer Hlth
Dave Adam
Walter Gusciora

SNJ Dept of Environmental Protection
Dr. Kenneth W. Bruder
Robert B. Kent

County MEC Superintendents
David Risley
Brian Gooley
Judy Hansen
Pat Slavin
Tom Camdeletti
Bill Fisher

Atlantic
Burlington
Cape May
Cumberland
Ocean
Salem

State Mosquito Control Commission
Aaron Rappaport, Chairman
Leonard Spiegel
Theodore Czech
James Gaspari
Ralph Evans
Michael Mathis
Robert Hughy
J. Richard Goldstein
Arthur R. Brown, Jr.
George H. Nieswand

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

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