

CULICOIDES OF THE BANG PAKHONG REGION, THAILAND



by

Niphan Chantawanich

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ABSTRACT

Culicoides, small biting midges which belong to the Nematocerous family Ceratopogonidae (= Heleidae), were collected from several areas of Thailand in order to determine the species present, and their seasonal and geographical distribution. The greater part of the specimens for the study were obtained from light traps operated at the horse farm of the Red Cross Society of Thailand in the coastal town of Bang Phra, Cholburi Province, Southeastern Thailand. Light traps operated there on a systematic basis for the collection of mosquitoes for virus study, consistently yielded large numbers of Culicoides. These were separated from the collections, identified in alcohol or in slide mounted preparations, and tabulated by time of collection. Wing patterns and the number of spermathecae in the females proved to be the best group characters, while finer details of the mouthparts, palps and other structures, including the male genitalia, were usually needed for species determination. Several new species were found at Bang Phra. The seasonal abundance of the various species were tabulated, and Culicoides peregrinus was found to be the most abundant species during most of the year. C. amamiensis was the most abundant, however, during June.

Specimens were also examined from a number of other localities in Thailand, including Bangkok and Chiangmai, to determine what other species might be present. All of the species of Culicoides found during the study were redescribed as an aid to future workers in Thailand. A key to all species was prepared, as well as photographs

of the wings, and drawings of the more important morphological features. Culicoides have not yet been found to carry human or animal disease in Thailand, but the present study should be of assistance to those conducting such studies in the future.

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