Mosquito studies - Greenwoods, summer 1999

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Survey of mosquito populations at Greenwoods Conservancy was continued by sampling at five sites was established along the north bank of the stream draining from Billy Schwerd Woods into a large pond east of Cranberry Bog Road. Sampling was conducted between 7:00 and 10:00 AM on the following dates: JUN 25,30; JUL 7,14,19,28;AUG 3,13,20,24; SEP 3, 15, 28. A CDC Midget light was set at points between sampling sites 1 and 2 on the following nights: AUG 12, 19, 23; SEP 2.

In sampling for landing/biting collections, the author sat for 20 minutes at each site with the left forearm exposed. Small vials charged with ethyl acetate were inverted over mosquitos alighting on the arm or other body surface within reach. Specimens were returned to the lakeside laboratory, mounted and deposited in the permanent collection.

Single specimens of *Aedes provocans* (Walker) and *Coquillettidia perturbans* (Walker) on JUN 25 and one *Anopheles earlei*Vargas on AUG 12 were the only mosquitos collected in the landing/biting sampling. No mosquitos were collected in light traps.

The apparent lack of a significant mosquito population in the area studied might be a result of unusually low rainfall throughout this spring and summer. However, the topography and substrate of Billy Schwerd Woods may not be conducive to development of large populations of temporary pool breeders. Although a walking survey in early spring would be required to confirm this thesis, the slope and apparent porosity of the soal suggests that temporary pools, if formed, would not persist long enough for completion of larval development.

The proximity of a body of permanent standing water on an adjoining property might suggest the potential for development of large larval populations. However, this does not appear to be the case, a pattern that has been commonly encountered in previous studies in upstate New York. The reason for this is unclear, but one factor may be lack of sufficient suitable hibernacula for adult females. *Coquillettidia perturbans* (Walker), the one species restricted to permanent water habitats that was commonly found, overwinters primarily in the larval stage.

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