

# Arthropod Monitoring

## Survey of Sites which may support populations of *Anopheles walkeri* Theobald

William L. Butts<sup>1</sup>

The recent series of collections of *Anopheles walkeri* on the Upper Site indicate that there is an established population of this species either in or closely adjacent to that area. The current knowledge of distribution of this species presents a pattern of discrete but somewhat scattered sites of development. Two sites within a 5-mile radius of the Upper Site, the wooded slope above Goodyear Swamp and wetland margins on the Thayer Farm were sampled by light trap collections.

The location of traps at Goodyear Swamp was chosen as a final phase of a survey of the area for mosquito populations and was based upon proximity to one known and other likely tree hole habitats. This placement would not be considered as a likely site for collection of *An. walkeri*.

Trap locations at the Thayer Farm were selected with regard to proximity of larval developmental sites which might be used by this species.

A light and CO<sub>2</sub> trap was set at a point adjacent to the boat access site on the large pond on the following dates: July 16, 30; August 5, 13. On August 20 the trap was moved to the edge of the woods adjacent to a low, swampy site east of this pond along the orange trail. A trap was maintained at this site on August 20, 26; September 5, 12, 17, 23. On September 23, a trap was set at the margin of a small pond at the end of a drainage ditch towards the west boundary of the property.

**Table 1:** Mosquitoes collected on Thayer Farm during 2008

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Site</u>
<i>Coquillettidia perturbans</i> (Walker) (5)	July 16	Boat launch site; Large pond
<i>Ochlerotatus canadensis</i> (Theobald) (2)	Aug. 20	Wet area along orange trail
<i>Aedes vexans</i> (Meigen)	Sept. 16	Small pond north of road near west boundary

*Anopheles perplexens* Ludlow

Although no specimens of *Anopheles walkeri* were collected, a new record for the site appears to have been set. A single specimen of *Anopheles perplexens* Ludlow taken on September 16 could be a new state record. An important caveat must be stated, since there is some disagreement concerning the definitive value of characteristics used to

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<sup>1</sup> Professor emeritus, SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station.

identify adults of this species. Some specimens collected in previous years showing relative size of white and dark wing spots that were marginal in comparison were assigned to *Anopheles punctipennis* (Say). The comparison of these characteristics in the specimen collected on September 16 clearly fit that used to separate the two species. (See Darsie and Ward, 2005, Identification and Geographical Distribution of the Mosquitoes of North America, North of Mexico p.3)