HUEVOS ISLAND SURVEY REPORT

(Mosquitoes, Bromeliads, Orchids and Bats)

By R. L. Manuel.

Situated approximately three miles off the north-western end of Trinidad, the island of Huevos is separated more or less equidistantly by about a mile from the islands of Monos on the east and Chacachacare on the west. Huevos Island has an area of 0.395 square miles (253 acres) and rises sharply from the sea to a maximum height of 680 feet. Like the sister island of Monos, her valleys offer a diversified flora including large forest trees, while her slopes and ridges are a tangle of brush and towering cacti.

From June 5th — 7th, 1965, a preliminary study was conducted on that part of the island bounded on the south by Torture Bay, with the exclusion of the Pt. de Cabras Peninsula; on the west by the summit of the ridge which runs from north to south; and on the north and east by the northern and eastern coasts respectively, with the exception of their precipitous descent to the sea. This report is the result of that study in which able assistance was rendered by Michael Manuel. The bats were identified at the Bat Control Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, and the plants by Dr. T. H. G. Aitken, Trinidad Regional Virus Laboratory.

MOSQUITOES (Family Culicidae: Order DIPTERA).

Mosquito larval collections were obtained from only two sources: treeholes and leaf axils of bromeliads. The treehole collections were at all an elevation of 250 to 300 feet, except for one which was obtained at about 50 feet. The holes were directly exposed from above, and those which contained water were nearly always positive for larvae. The sizes of the treeholes from which collections were made varied from a diameter of 1 inch to 4 inches, and were situated from ground level to about 2 feet above ground.

On the summit and upper slopes of the ridge bromeliads became more prevalent than the treeholes. Several terrestrial plants which were checked for larvae yielded few positives, in spite of the fact that typical bromeliad breeding mosquitoes were abundant and attacking incessantly. There were, however, numerous arboreal bromeliads which were well beyond reach on the lofty branches overhead.

A total of 10 larval collections were made: three from bromeliads and seven from treeholes. Also, a random collection of adults was made while biting man. Following is a list of species recovered along with their respective breeding place or type of collection.

MOSQUITO SPECIES	BREEDING PLACE OR TYPE OF COLLECTION.
1. **Culex gaudeator**	Leaf axil of terrestrial **Gravisea aquilega.**
2. **Haemagogus splendens ?**	Treeholes.
3. **Phoniomyia lassalli**	Adults biting man.
4. **Wyeomyia howardi**	Leaf axil of terrestrial **Gravisea aquilega.**
5. **Wyeomyia medioalbipes**	Leaf axil of terrestrial **Gravisea aquilega.**
6. **Wyeomyia (Wyeomyia) sp.**	Small treehole. (Elevation circa 50 feet above sea level).
7. **Wyeomyia (Dendromyia) sp.**	Adults biting man.

There was no apparent variation among the numerous specimens of presumed **Haemagogus splendens** which were reared. The postpronotum was consistently silvery scaled, with one to three blue scales intermixed. They thus differed slightly from the Monos Island specimens found by us in 1964, in which the postpronotal scales appeared bluish tinged silvery, and from the typical Trinidadian form in which these scales are greenish.

The only female **Wyeomyia medioalbipes** which was reared, differed from the Trinidadian form by having metallic violaceous scales centrally on the pronotal lobes, instead of being dark and dull coloured.

Bromeliads (BROMELIACEAE) recorded in the area of the mosquito larval collections.

1. **Bromelia humilis**	Terrestrial.
2. **Bromelia Karatas (Manicou fig)**	Terrestrial.
3. **Gravisea aquilega**	Epiphytic and terrestrial.
4. **Tillandsia flexuosa**	Epiphytic.

Orchids (ORCHIDACEAE) recorded in the area of the mosquito larval collections.

1. **Brassavola cucullata**	Elevation approximately 250 to 350 feet. Epiphytic. A fairly common plant up the valley. One plant was seen with a flower which would have opened fully in about a day.

2. Catasetum sp.	Elevation approximately 200 feet. Epiphytic. Only one plant was seen.
3. Caularthron bicornutum (Virgin orchid)	Elevation approximately 250 to 350 feet. Epiphytic. A fairly common plant.
4. Oncidium luridum (Brown bee orchid)	Elevation 300 to 600 feet. A fairly common plant. One was seen in flower.
5. Spiranthes acaulis	Elevation approximately 300 to 400 feet. Terrestrial. A common plant at that elevation.

BATS (Order CHIROPTERA)

Incidental observations were made on the bat fauna of the island by R. P. ffrench, as shown on the following list. Japanese mist nests, set out on the slope of the valley at an approximate elevation of 350 feet for the day's bird netting programme, were left unfurled at night. They were checked early on the following mornings and found to have caught a total of six specimens, comprising three species. In addition, a few fish-eating bats (**Noctilio leporinus**) were observed at dusk flying low over the water of Torture Bay.

1. Artibeus jamaicensis trinitatis	Three adult males. Dept. Agr. No. 65-1340 to 1342. One adult female. Dept. Agr. No. 65-1343.
2. Glossophaga soricina	One adult male. Dept. Agr. No. 65-1344.
3. Glossophaga longirostris major	One immature male. Dept. Agr. No. 65-1339.
4. Noctilio leporinus	Seen flying over Bay.

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