CULICIDAE OF EASTERN SPAIN

D. BRAVO, E. CORELLA[1], J. MORENO[1] & R. JIMÉNEZ[1]

CTL, SA. 46700 Gandia, Spain

[1]Departamento de Biología Animal (Entomología), Universidad de Valencia, Dr Moliner, 50. 46100 Burjasot, Spain

Mosquitoes are an old problem to human communities, not only because they are vectors of dangerous diseases but also because the female's haematophagous habits cause discomfort to humans. As a consequence, it is necessary to know the different species and their geographical distribution in order to plan an adequate integrated pest control programme.

In this work, the most important species found in our study area were assessed for pest status. The area includes several coastal town councils of Land Valencia (Spain) belonging to Valencia and Alicante provinces, where mosquito control campaigns have been carried out. In these areas, the antivectorial control is planned, either due to a high human population or due to their touristic attraction.

The collecting methods used were direct and indirect ones. For adult mosquitoes, Malaise traps and entomological nets were used. Larvae were collected directly from the breeding sites.

The most common species n the area was *Culex (Culex) pipiens* Linnaeus, associated with fresh, stagnant and also polluted water, and border vegetation. The variety of habitats that this mosquito occupied along this coastal fringe, as well as its high population density, pointed to a great adaptation capacity.

In urban environments *Culiseta longiareolata* (Macquart) has also been found. It was common in fresh water, and in stagnant water but with a low organic load.

In salt marshes at the south of Land Valencia, the presence of two *Aedes* species has been detected, ie, *Aedes caspius* (Pallas) and A*edes detritus* (Haliday). The first one is more abundant and associated with salt marsh areas experiencing a temporary flood. The second one is rather rare and seasonal.

Summing up, distribution and auto ecological features of the different species studied have been reviewed.