

Morphological descriptions of the female, pupa, and larva of *Culex* (*Culex*) *cuyanus* Duret (Diptera: Culicidae)

GUSTAVO C. ROSSI¹ ERIKA SCHEIBLER² & MARTHA C. DOMINGUEZ²

¹Centro de Estudios Parasitológicos y de Vectores (CEPAVE) 2N° 584, B1902CHX La Plata, Argentina.
E-mail: gustavo@cepave.edu.ar

²Laboratorio de Entomología, Instituto Argentino de las Zonas Áridas (IADIZA- CRICYT) Mendoza, Argentina

Abstract

The female, pupa, and larva of *Culex* (*Culex*) *cuyanus* are described for the first time, diagnostic characters are given, and the larva and pupa are illustrated. The species is present in La Rioja, San Juan, and Mendoza Provinces in Argentina, where it breeds in semi-permanent pools.

Key words: Argentina, Diptera, Culicidae, *Culex cuyanus*, female, larva, pupa

Introduction

Culex (*Culex*) *cuyanus* was described by Duret (1968) based on the male genitalia of 10 specimens collected, probably with a net, in 1953. Duret (1968) indicated that two paratypes were deposited in the collection of the USNM, Washington, DC, and Harbach *et al.* (1990) stated that the holotype and six paratypes were in the Smithsonian Institution. The paratype deposited by Duret in the Departamento de Entomología (Buenos Aires) is missing. This species has not been recorded since 1953. The original description was mentioned by Mitchell & Darsie (1985) and the Walter Reed Biosystematics Unit (2001). During limnological studies at the Mendoza River in Potrerillos, Mendoza Province, Argentina, the larvae and pupae of an unknown species of mosquito were collected and reared. These specimens later were identified at Centro de Estudios Parasitológicos y de Vectores as *Culex cuyanus*. From these specimens, we describe the previously unknown female, pupa, and larva of this species.