

TRAPPING AIR-BORNE INSECTS ON SHIPS IN THE PACIFIC, PART 6¹

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Abstract: Six cruises were made aboard ships in the Pacific for the purpose of collecting air-borne insects during 1963-64². A total of 411 specimens was collected, the majority of which belong to the orders Diptera, Hymenoptera and Homoptera.

Five cruises were made aboard U.S. Military ships and on one cruise specimens were collected for the museum by members of the Chilean Naval vessel "Esmeralda." The itinerary and dates of the six cruises are as follows:

B. E. Esmeralda	San Diego, California—Valparaiso, Chile	May—June, 1963
USNS Sultan	Honolulu—Yokohama—Inchon—Okinawa	Feb. 1964, J. C. Harrell
USNS Patrick	Honolulu—Yokohama—Okinawa—Taiwan—Yokohama—Honolulu	July—Aug. 1964, E. Holzapfel
USNS Gaffey	San Francisco—Honolulu—Guam—Okinawa—Philippines—Guam—Honolulu	Sept.—Oct. 1964, J. C. Harrell
USNS Shearwater	Kwajalein—Jaluit—Makin—Maiana—Kuria—Aranuka—Honolulu	Oct.—Nov. 1964, B. D. Perkins
USS Mann	Honolulu—San Diego	Dec. 1964, E. Holzapfel

On the six cruises, 411 specimens were collected, the largest numbers of specimens collected belonged to the orders Diptera and Homoptera.

Methods: 75 cm diameter nylon nets suspended from ropes or lines were used on all six cruises. The number and position of nets varied on each ship. During normal weather collecting equipment was examined three times a day near land and twice a day when over 550 km from land. The electric suction trap³ was used by Holzapfel aboard the USNS Patrick and USS Mann, and by Harrell aboard the USNS Gaffey.

Harrell operated 12 nets suspended from the King Post in front of the bridge on the USNS Sultan. On four of the eleven days at sea, the nets were not in use because of high winds. On the USNS Gaffey 10 nets were suspended from the signal halyards above the bridge and the suction trap was placed on top of a storage locker near the ship's bow.

1. Results of a project supported by a grant to Bishop Museum by the Biology Branch, Office of Naval Research (through the Pacific Science Board, National Academy of Science). Previous reports of this series were by Gressitt and Nakata (1), Yoshimoto & Gressitt (2-4), and Harrell & Yoshimoto (5).
2. Three 1963 cruises previously reported (Part 5).
3. Yoshimoto, Gressitt, and Mitchell, 1962, *Pacific Insects* 4 (4): 847-58, 1 fig.

Holzapfel, on the USNS Patrick, placed the suction trap on the deck above the bridge and suspended 12 nets from the King Post in front of the bridge. On the USS Mann the suction trap was also placed above the bridge and four nets were suspended from the radar mast yardarms.

Perkins used 8 nylon nets suspended from the cargo loading booms on board the USNS Shearwater.

Results: Data from the six cruises are presented in Tables 1-6.

A total of 411 specimens representing 56 families was collected on the six cruises. Diptera with 170 specimens represented the most frequently collected order, and Chironomidae was the most abundant family found. The second largest order collected was Hymenoptera, 124 specimens, and the third largest was Homoptera with 59 specimens.

Discussion: The cruises of the USNS Patrick, Gaffey and the Shearwater in 1964 offered a unique opportunity for ship trapping research. For the first time data was obtained from the Central, Eastern Pacific, and Western Pacific areas within a five month period, July through November.

Table 7 compiles by family and area, the number of specimens collected under 60 km from land and those collected over 60 km from land on the three cruises. The division of specimens into these two categories was made because of the significant difference in the number collected over 60 km from land.

Table 7 shows a high number of specimens collected under 60 km from land in each area. There are several possible reasons for this high number. Some specimens will be blown short distances out to sea if the weather is favorable, and some specimens may have boarded the ship in port. When the ships left the harbor and air was circulated through the ventilation system, specimens were forced out of the air vents on the various deck levels and collected in the trapping equipment. Most of these insects would have probably been blown out within two to three hours after leaving port, usually a distance of 60 to 100 km from land if the ship is not cruising parallel to the coast line. Other insects may have been attracted to the ships as they cruised within sight of the coast line, either by the ships' color during the day or at night by the ships' light. With the present data it is impossible to determine by which method insect specimens reached the vessels when close to land.

In the future, the problem of shipboard contamination can be checked by placing traps at the air vent openings, and collecting specimens from inside the ship. Then by comparing these specimens with those collected in the nets above the decks, it will be possible to determine to what extent material is coming from within the ship. To compile more data on specimens collected close to land, the equipment should be checked for specimens as soon as the vessel is out of sight of land. Separate records should be kept on these specimens and later compared with data from specimens collected further out at sea. When approaching land fall the same procedure should be applied. Using these techniques, the problem of specimens being attracted to the ship, and ship board infestation can be confined to one section of the data obtained and more accurate long distance dispersal information gained.

Table 7 also shows that of the 41 families represented by specimens collected in the four areas, no families had specimens collected in all areas. However, both the orders

Table 1. B.E. Esmeralda⁴.

1963	Wind Velocity-knots	Starting		Ending		Approx. dist., nearest land, in km	No. specimens	Order	Family
		Lat.	Long.	Lat.	Long.				
17.V	5			31°06'N	117°20'W	50 km Baja Coast, Mexico	+6	Homoptera	Aphididae
							+4	Hemiptera	Miridae
							+1	"	Lygaeidae: <i>Nysius</i>
							+1	Thysanoptera	Thripidae
14.VI	5			13°03'N	88°26'W	15 km El Salvador Coast	+6	Hymenoptera	Agaontidae
							+2	Diptera	Cecidomyiidae
							+1	"	Chironomidae
							+1	"	Ceratopogonidae
							+3	Homoptera	Psyllidae
							+1	"	Aleyrodidae
							+3	Lepidoptera	Microlepidoptera
21.VI	6			11°03'N	86°31'W	60 km San Juan del sur, Nicaragua	+6	Hymenoptera	Agaontidae
							+4	Homoptera	Psyllidae
							+1	Diptera	Phoridae
							+4	Psocoptera	Ectopsocidae
							+1	Thysanoptera	Thripidae
21.VI	6	11°03'N	86°31'W	11°00'N	86°12'W	20 km Coast of Costa Rica	1	Hymenoptera	Agaontidae
							6	Homoptera	Cicadellidae
							2	"	Delphacidae
							1	Lepidoptera	Microlepidoptera
							4	Diptera	Chironomidae
							2	"	Tipuloidea?
							1	"	Cecidomyiidae
							1	"	Ceratopogonidae
							1	Hemiptera	Miridae
							1	"	Lygaeidae: <i>Pacmybracesus</i>
							1	Coleoptera	Hydrophilidae
							1	"	Tenebrionidae
							1	"	Orthoperidae: nr <i>Sericoderus</i>
1	"	Chrysomelidae: Alticinae: <i>Crepidodera</i>							
22.VI	5	11°00'N	86°12'W	09°48'N	84°53'W	25 km Cabo Blanco, Costa Rica	+2	Hymenoptera	Agaontidae
							+2	Diptera	Cecidomyiidae
							+1	"	Ceratopogonidae
							+14	Homoptera	Aleyrodidae
							+4	"	Psyllidae
+1	Lepidoptera	Tineoidea							

4. Key to Tables 1-6. + Caught alive, ☉ Caught in net, : Caught in suction trap.

25.VI	5			09°45'N	84°45'W	20 km Coast of Costa Rica	+1	Araneida	Argiopidae
							+1	Hymenoptera	Agaontidae
							+2	"	Proctotrypoidea
									Platystridae (2 gen.)
							+1	"	Braconidae
							+10	Homoptera	Psyllidae
							+5	Diptera	Ceratopogonidae
26.VI	5	09°45'N	84°45'W	08°18'N	83°39'W	75 km PTA Burica, Costa Rica	+2	"	Chloropidae
							+1	"	Stratiomyiidae
							+1	"	Milichiidae
							1	Homoptera	Aleyrodidae
							1	"	Aphididae
							1	"	Psyllidae

Table 2. USNS Sultan (Harrell).

Date 1964	Direction/Velocity (Degrees) (Knots)		Starting Lat. Long.		Ending Lat. Long.		Approx. dist., nearest land, in km	No. speci- mens	Order	Family
10.II	070°	10	22°31'N	165°37'W	22°51'N	167°22'W	280 km French Frigate Shoal 312 km Necker I.	1	Psocoptera	Ectopsocidae

Table 3. USNS Patrick (Holzapfel).

Date 1964	Direction/Velocity (Degrees) (Knots)		Starting Lat. Long.		Ending Lat. Long.		Approx. dist., nearest land, in km	No. speci- mens	Order	Family
14.VII 1300*	001°	22	Barbers Pt. Oahu	21°16'N	158°40'W	32 km Oahu	+ ♀ 12	Hymenoptera	Agaontidae	
							+ ♀ 1	Coleoptera	Nitidulidae	
							+ ♀ 1	Homoptera	Aleyrodidae	
							♂ 1	Fragment	?	
14.VII 1400	001°	22	21°16'N	158°40'W	21°17'N	159°00'W	+ : 71	Hymenoptera	Agaontidae	
							+ : 1	Diptera	Milichiidae	
							+ : 1	Thysanoptera	Thripidae	
							+ : 1	Acarina	Uropodidae (Nymph)	
14.VII 1800	075°	16	21°17'N	159°00'W	21°30'N	160°30'W	+ : 1	Hymenoptera	Pteromalidae	
									<i>Scutellista cyanea</i>	
									Motsch.	
							+ ♀ 11	"	Agaontidae	
			+ ♀ 1	Coleoptera	Bruchidae					
			+ ♀ 1	Diptera	Ceratopogonidae					

15.VII 0800	065°	15	21°30'N	160°30'W	22°58'N	165°20'W	99 km French Frigate Shoal	Φ2 : 1 : 1 Φ1 Φ1 Φ1	Fragments Araneida " Coleoptera Hymenoptera Diptera	Oocobiidae Fragment (leg) Bruchidae Agaontidae Chloropidae
18.VII 1800	037°	8	28°49'N	176°04'E	29°24'N	173°51'E	720 km Kure Isl.	: 1	Hymenoptera	Wing fragment
19.VII 1800	223°	9	31°00'N	168°24'E	31°56'N	164°45'E	1254 km Marcus Isl.	Φ1	Diptera	Sciaridae
20.VII 0800		0	31°56'N	164°45'E	33°00'N	159°12'E	941 km Marcus Isl.	Φ1	Fragment	
21.VII 1200	165°	10	34°18'N	149°48'E	34°19'N	148°04'E	576 km Nagasaki Hana (Pt.)	: 1	Acarina	Bdellidae
22.VII 0800	075°	7	34°30'N	145°52'E	34°41'N	140°42'E	62 km Nojima Saki	: 1	Hymenoptera	Formicidae
22.VII 1300	Var.		34°41'N	140°42'E	Nr Hommoku Misaki	8 km Hommoku Misaki	: 1	Psocoptera	Ectopsocidae	
25.VII 0900	Light airs		29°13'N	131°50'E	Nr Okinawa Coast	8 km Ara Saki Okinawa	Φ1	Coleoptera	Fragment	
27.VII 0645	180°	15	25°46'N	125°32'E	Nr Taiwan Coast	3 km Kuruu To	: 1 : 1	Diptera Hemiptera	Ceratopogonidae Miridae	
28.VII 0800	160°	20	25°18'N	122°05'E	27°17'N	126°33'E	9.4 km Kobi Sho	Φ2	Coleoptera	Fragments
28.VII 1200	130°	20	27°17'N	126°33'E	28°00'N	128°00'E	24 km Tori Shima	Φ12	"	"
28.VII 1800	078°	13	28°00'N	128°00'E	28°55'N	129°51'E	14 km Amami Oshima	Φ1 Φ1 Φ1	Thysanoptera Diptera Hymenoptera	Thripidae Borboridae Eucoilinae, <i>Kleiditoma</i> sp. Formicidae (thorax)
29.VII 1800	200°	7	32°19'N	135°00'E	33°24'N	137°00'E	80 km Nigi- shima Wan	Φ1 : 1	" Fragment	
30.VII 1800	Var.		33°24'N	137°00'E	Nr Yokohama Hbr.	1.6 km Yoko- hama Hbr.	+ : 4 + : 1 + : 1 + : 1 + : 1 + : 2	Diptera " " " " Hymenoptera	Chironomidae Ephydriidae Ceratopogonidae Culicidae Agaontidae	
1.VIII 1200	265°	10	34°28'N	146°15'E	34°24'N	147°46'E	576 km Naga- saki Hana	Φ1 Φ1 Φ1	Acarina " Psocoptera	Eupodidae Acaridae Liposcelidae
3.VIII 1800	134°	14	31°50'N	165°05'E	31°19'N	167°12'E	1152 km Wake Isl.	Φ1	Diptera	Fragment

* Local time.

Table 4. USNS Gaffey (Harrell).

Date 1964	Wind		Starting		Ending		Approx. dist., nearest land, in km	No. speci- mens	Order	Family
	Direction/ (Degrees)	Velocity (Knots)	Lat.	Long.	Lat.	Long.				
22.IX 1300*	030°	7	35°09'N	128°46'W	34°18'N	130°40'W	800 km Calif. Coast	+ 0 1	Diptera	Borboridae
24.IX 0900	060°	7	29°37'N	140°43'W	27°09'N	145°30'W	1440 km Hawaii	0 1	"	Drosophilidae
28.IX 1800	070°	20	21°14'N	168°34'W	21°15'N	170°00'W	368 km Necker Isl. 320 French Frigate Shoal	+ 0 1	Psocoptera	Lachesillidae
6-8.X			Apra, Guam		Naha, Okinawa			+9	Hemiptera	Coreidae
7.X 0900	105°	10	14°55'N	142°40'E	18°05'N	138°28'E	400 km Guam	1	Diptera	Chloropidae
10.X 1700	075°	35	Naha, Okinawa		24°06'N	125°47'E	240 km Naha	: 1	Hymenoptera	Eulophidae ♂ <i>Hemiptarsenus</i>
11.X 1800	170°	22	18°06'N	120°00'E	17°24'N	120°04'E	3.5 km Luzon Coast	: 2 : 1	Homopter Diptera	Aphididae Ephydriidae
12.X 0800	170°	20	17°24'N	120°04'E	Manila Hbr.		3.5 km Manila Hbr.	: 1 : 1 : 1 : 1	" " Hemiptera Fragment	Dolicopodidae Chironomidae Miridae
14.X 0900	010°-045°	6	San Bernardino Sts.		Nr Samar Isl.		4 km Samar Isl.	: 1 : 2 : 1	Coleoptera Homoptera "	Scarabaeidae Aphodiinae Cicadellidae Aphididae
15.X 1200	020°	12	13°08'N	131°25'E	13°08'N	132°24'E	480 km Palau Is. 640 km Parece Vela	0 1 + 1	Psocoptera Orthoptera	Liposcelidae Tettigoniidae
17.X 0700	310°	8	13°16'N	140°55'E	Apra, Guam		5 km Apra, Guam	1	Diptera	Limoniidae
18.X 1800	075°	15	Apra, Guam		14°18'N	146°55'E	95 km Guam	: 1	"	Drosophilidae
19.X 1800	025°	25	15°37'N	151°10'E	16°16'N	154°25'E	1120 km Guam	+ 1	Coleoptera	Coccinellidae: <i>Coccinella transver- sogutta</i> Fold.
23.X 1800	080°	15	20°41'N	178°54'W	20°53'N	175°46'W	1120 km French Frigate Shoal, 1200 km Necker I.	: 3	Psocoptera	Liposcelidae

Table 5. USNS Shearwater (Perkins).

Date 1964	Wind Direction/Velocity (Degrees) (Knots)		Starting Lat. Long.		Ending Lat. Long.		Approx. dist., nearest land, in km	No. speci- mens	Order	Family
9-11.XI			5°03'N	170°34'E	Jaluit Atoll		1.6 km Jaluit Atoll	1 1 4 1	Diptera " " Isoptera	Tipulidae Chloropidae Chironomidae Wing of Rhinotermitidae
12.XI 1200	150°	10	3°34'N	172°24'E	Makin Isl.		2 km Makin Is. nr Butaritari Vill.	+1 +1	Diptera "	Ephydriidae Ceratopogonidae
12-14.XI			In Harbor Makin Isl. nr Butaritari Vill-2 km					1 1 1 41 3 1	Coleoptera Araneida Hymenoptera Diptera " "	Staphylinidae Argiopidae (immature) Formicidae Chironomidae Ceratopogonidae Cecidomyiidae
16-17.XI	120°	12	Makin Isl.		Maiana Isl.		40 km N. Maiana Isl.	22 1 1	" " "	Chironomidae Cecidomyiidae Ceratopogonidae
17-18.XI			At Anchor		Maiana Isl.		10 km Maiana	2 2	" "	Chironomidae Ceratopogonidae
18.XI 1400	125°	10	10 km Maiana Isl.	0°21'N	176°16'E		48 km S. Mai- ana Isl.	3	"	Chironomidae
19.XI 1800			0°21'N	173°16'E	Nr Kuria Isl.		8 km Kuria Isl. 5 km Aronuka Isl.	2 1 23 2 1	Hymenoptera Diptera " " Hymenoptera	Formicidae Trixoscelidae Chironomidae Ceratopogonidae Wing
20.XI 0800	050°	1	Nr Kuria Isl.	1°13'N	175°12'E		220 km Aronuka	7 3 1	Diptera " "	Chironomidae Ceratopogonidae Fragment
20.XI 1330			1°13'N	175°12'E	1°52'N 175°48'E		300 km Aronuka	2 1	" "	Chironomidae Psychodidae (wing)

Table 6. USS Mann (Holzapfel).

Date 1964	Wind		Starting		Ending		Approx. dist., nearest land, in km	No. speci- mens	Order	Family
	Direction/ (Degrees)	Velocity (Knots)	Lat.	Long.	Lat.	Long.				
7.XII 1800	074	11	Honolulu		21°17'N	157°26'W	30 km Oahu	: 1	Diptera	Drosophilidae
8.XII 1800	130	20	24°30'N	150°11'W	25°13'N	148°14'W	800 km Oahu	: 1	Thysanoptera	Thripidae
10.XII 0800	140	10	28°02'N	139°47'W	29°01'N	135°56'W	1400 km Calif. Coast	: 1	Diptera	Wing fragment

Table 7. Specimens from three cruises compiled by area and distance from land when collected.

Order	Family	No. Specimens	Area	Collected under 60 km from land	Collected over 60 km from land	
Coleoptera	Nitidulidae	1	A	1		
	Bruchidae	2	A	1	1	
	Scarabaeidae	1	B	1		
	Coccinellidae	1	A		1	
	Staphylinidae	1	D	1		
Psocoptera	Ectopsocidae	1	C	1		
	Liposcelidae	1	C		1	
		4	A		4	
	1	B		1		
Thysanoptera	Thripidae	1	A	1		
		1	C	1		
Diptera	Milichiidae	1	A	1		
	Ceratopogonidae	1	A	1		
		2	C	2		
		12	D	9	3	
	Chloropidae	1	A		1	
		1	B		1	
		1	D	1		
	Sciaridae	1	A		1	
	Borboridae	1	C	1		
		1	A		1	
	Chironomidae	4	C	4		
		1	B	1		
		102	D	93	9	
	Ephydriidae	1	C	1		
		1	B	1		
		1	D	1		
	Culicidae	1	C	1		
	Drosophilidae	1	A		1	
		1	B		1	
	Dolichopodidae	1	B	1		
	Limoniidae	1	B	1		
	Tipulidae	1	D	1		
	Cecidomyiidae	2	D	2		
	Trixoscelidae	1	D	1		
	Psychodidae	1	D		1	
Hymenoptera	Agaontidae	2	C	2		
		95	A	94	1	
		Pteromalidae	1	A	1	
		Eucoilinae	1	C	1	
		Formicidae	2	C	1	1
3	D		3			
	Eulophidae	1	C		1	
Homoptera	Aleyrodidae	1	A	1		
	Aphididae	3	B	3		
	Cicadellidae	2	B	2		
Hemiptera	Miridae	1	C	1		
		1	B	1		
	Coreidae	9	C		9	
Orthoptera	Tettigoniidae	1	B		1	
Isoptera	Rhinotermitidae	1	D	1		

Araneida	Oecobiidae	1	A		1
	Argiopidae	1	D	1	
Acarina	Uropodidae	1	A	1	
	Bdellidae	1	C		1
	Eupodidae	1	C		1
	Acaridae	1	C		1
Fragments		7	A	3	4
		1	B	1	
		18	C	17	1
		2	D	1	1

Key to Area

A—Central Pacific
 B—Guam—Philippines
 C—Japan—Okinawa
 D—Marshalls—Gilberts

Total no. specimens 315
 Total no. families 41
 No. specimens collected under 60 km 265
 No. specimens collected over 60 km 50

Psocoptera and Diptera are represented by specimens of the same families which were collected in three areas of the Pacific during the cruises. Three other orders have families that were collected in two areas. A more detailed identification of specimens is necessary before a more comprehensive report of specimens collected in each area can be made.

Acknowledgements: We are indebted to the Biology Branch Office of Naval Research and the Pacific Science Board (Nat'l. Acad. Sci.) and the U. S. Antarctic Research Program (Nat'l. Sci. Foundation) for their financial support. We are also grateful to Drs S. R. Galler and H. L. Hayes (Office of Naval Research), Dr H. J. Coolidge and Mrs L. Smith (Pacific Science Board), Capt. R. T. Holway, Preventive Medicine Unit #6, Pearl Harbor, and to the officers and men of the B. E. Esmeralda, USNS Sultan, USNS Patrick, USNS Gaffey, USNS Shearwater and USS Mann; especially Capt. Harrington of the USNS Sultan, Capt. Anderson, Mssrs. Gibson, Christiansen and Stuvén of the USNS Gaffey, and Capt. G. C. Krull and Mr. Ashton of the USNS Shearwater.

We are also grateful to the following for help in sorting specimens to families: I. W. Thornton, D. Tsuda, W. Voss, P. Ashlock, G. A. Samuelson, C. M. Yoshimoto, G. Nakahashi, J. Tenorio and T. Suman.