

many small accumulations of water in pools and ditches, the houses are infested with *Anopheles*: so much so that in December last I collected no less than 250 specimens within three hours in the rest-house alone. These specimens belonged to the following species:—

A. nigerrimus (the most abundant), *A. barbirostris*, *A. rossi*, *A. jamesi*, and a species which is probably new. The last may be described as follows:—

A small mosquito about the size of *A. jamesi*. *Palpi* with five nearly equal white bands; the terminal band white, all distinct. *Proboscis* whitish, with a dark band near the middle. *Legs*—The femora and tibiæ of all the legs striped alternately with white and dark bands; all the joints capped with white; the remaining part of the legs, including the tarsi, dark. *Wings*—The costal vein with three large, dark bands and four small ones; the first longitudinal vein with three large bands and two small ones; the second with one band on the main trunk and two on the branches; the third with three bands; the fourth with four bands on the main trunk, three on the anterior and two on the posterior branch; the sixth with three bands.

This species does not agree with any of the fifteen described in James and Liston's *Monograph of the Anopheles Mosquitoes of India*, being distinguished by the peculiar markings on the palpi, wings and legs. From the descriptions and figures in Theobald's *Monograph of the Culicidæ of the World*, so far as I can make them out, it seems very much like *A. punctulatus*, Dönitz, from the Malay Peninsula, but I cannot be sure of the identity.

G. C. CHATTERJEE.

ANOPHELES LARVÆ IN BRACKISH WATER.—James and Liston do not mention the occurrence of *Anopheles* larvæ in salt water in India, and recently several observers have suggested as a means of destruction of these larvæ that sea water might be admitted into pools containing them. But Mosquito larvæ have been found, though rarely, inhabiting salt water; for example, Theobald (*Mon. Cul.*, i, p. 36) mentions that Dr. Bancroft found larvæ of *Culex marinus* in salt-water marshes in Australia. The brackish tanks at Port Canning, which also contain marine animals such as Medusæ and sea anemones, are full of *Anopheles* larvæ, which are found amongst filamentous algæ. On examination specimens proved, without exception, to be larvæ of *Anopheles rossi*. They were very abundant at the beginning of December, the water then containing 0.22 per cent. of soluble matter, but were much less so at the end of the same month. I noticed that when these larvæ were transferred to fresh water, they at once sank and crawled about the bottom of the vessel for some time. Then, by a series of muscular movements, they came to the surface. There was always a tendency for them to sink again; whereas individuals from fresh water rise to the surface by their own buoyancy, not by muscular action, and do not remain at the bottom long if they sink. I

obtained, some larvæ from fresh water and placed them in water from the Port Canning pools: they died within a few hours.

G. C. CHATTERJEE.

MOSQUITOES FROM KUMAON.—Mosquitoes are very abundant in the lower parts of Kumaon at the end of September; during a visit to Bhim Tal (4,500 ft.) at that time of year the following species were collected: *Anopheles lindesayi* (Giles), *Toxorhynchites immisericors* (Walker), and *Stegomyia scutellaris* (Walker). (The last = *Culex albopictus*, Skuse.) All these were abundant, especially the first and the last. The *Anopheles* and the *Stegomyia* were breeding in water-butts by the side of European houses, and the latter also in cavities in jungle trees which had become full of rain-water.

N. ANNANDALE.

OLIGOCHÆTE WORMS.

PECULIAR HABIT OF AN EARTHWORM.—In the jungle at Bhim Tal I was surprised to find that hollows in trees which had become filled with dead leaves and rain-water, contained enormous numbers of small earthworms, all belonging to the same species. Dr. W. Michælsen, of Hamburg, has kindly examined specimens and says that they belong to the genus *Perionyx* and probably to the widely distributed species *P. excavatus*. All the specimens sent him proved to be immature, and although I made a careful search for individuals with the clitellum developed, I could not find any. The specific identification, therefore, is a little uncertain. The worms lay at the edge of the cavities, with the posterior half of the body sunk in the water and the anterior half closely applied to the wood; when touched they retreated among the dead leaves below the water. They occurred in large masses, which, owing to their bright coral-red colour and apparently filamentous structure, I mistook at first sight for fungi. I noticed that on a wet day the worms left the cavities and crawled about on the tree-trunks. Apparently they did so also at night, for I found many of them on the trunks early in the morning, while others were observed at this time of day crawling across paths and even roads. Those which were caught by the sun in such positions were killed, and almost every morning dead individuals, which apparently had perished because they had not reached a damp situation early enough, could be found on the exposed road surrounding the lake. I have noticed in the Malay Peninsula that certain species of Scorpion are subject to the same danger.

Together with the worm, I took in the tree-hollows numerous larvæ of the Mosquito *Stegomyia scutellaris* and of a beetle (probably an Elaterid), while I observed a handsome Tipulid, which Mr. E. Brunetti has identified as *Pseliophora chrysophila* (Walker), laying its eggs on the wood at the edge.

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