

*Culex (Culex) theileri* Theobald, WRBU specimen CXthe, Character descriptions: Edwards, 1941:305

The adult. One of the most distinctly marked amongst the African species of *Culex*; readily distinguished from all others in the Ethiopian fauna by the conspicuously striped femora and tibiae, the pale stripes being continuous on middle and hind legs. Only the most strongly-marked specimens of *Cx. univittatus* might occasionally be mistaken for the less typically marked *Cx. theileri*, but these two may be distinguished at once by the hind femur.

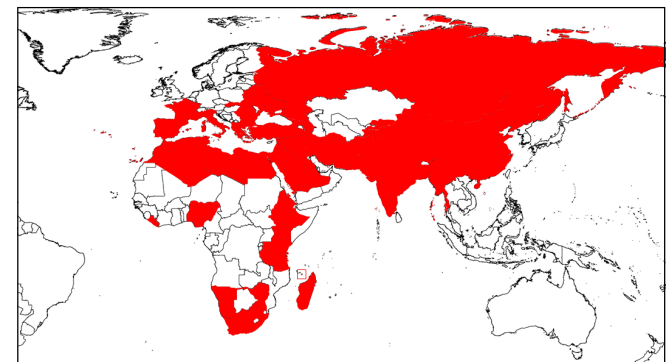
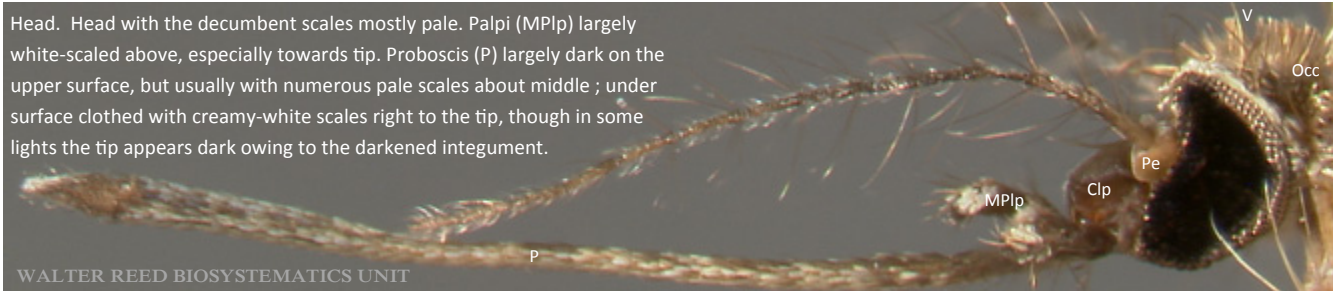
Thorax. Thorax with integument uniformly brownish; Pleural scaling : a small patch of flat white post-spiracular scales (PoSc) present ; sternopleural scales numerous, usually forming a continuous band extending from subalar-area (SaA) to mid coxa, this band rarely interrupted in middle ; mesepimeron (Mam) with a large patch of white scales.



Thorax. Mesonotal scales rather variable in colour, usually dark brownish except near scutellum and on front margin, where they are paler, but not infrequently with a considerable irregular admixture of whitish scales. Posterior margin of scutellum trilobed,

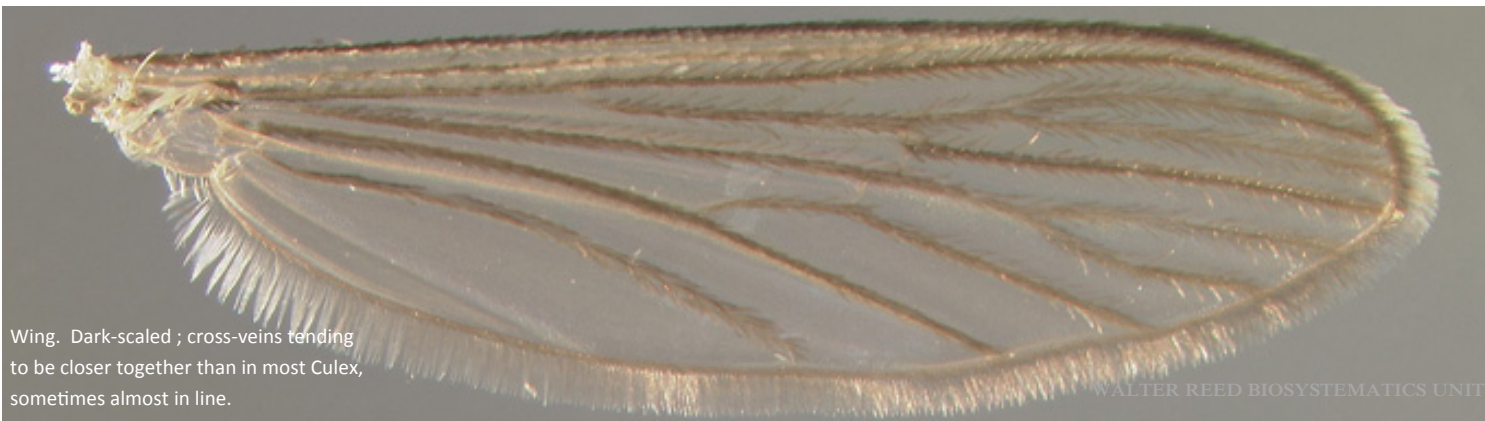


Head. Head with the decumbent scales mostly pale. Palpi (MPlp) largely white-scaled above, especially towards tip. Proboscis (P) largely dark on the upper surface, but usually with numerous pale scales about middle ; under surface clothed with creamy-white scales right to the tip, though in some lights the tip appears dark owing to the darkened integument.





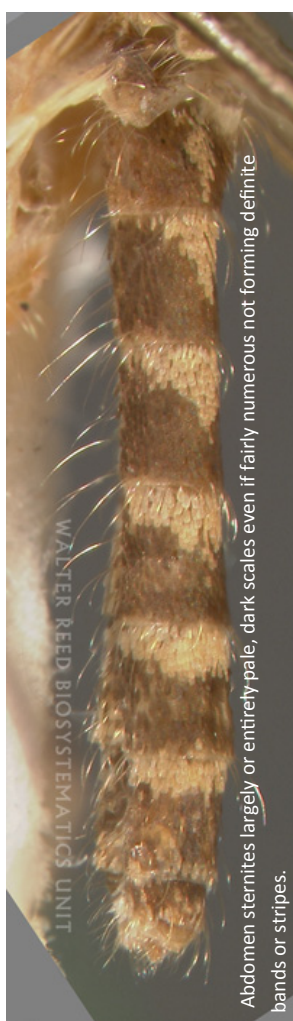
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Wing. Dark-scaled ; cross-veins tending to be closer together than in most *Culex*, sometimes almost in line.



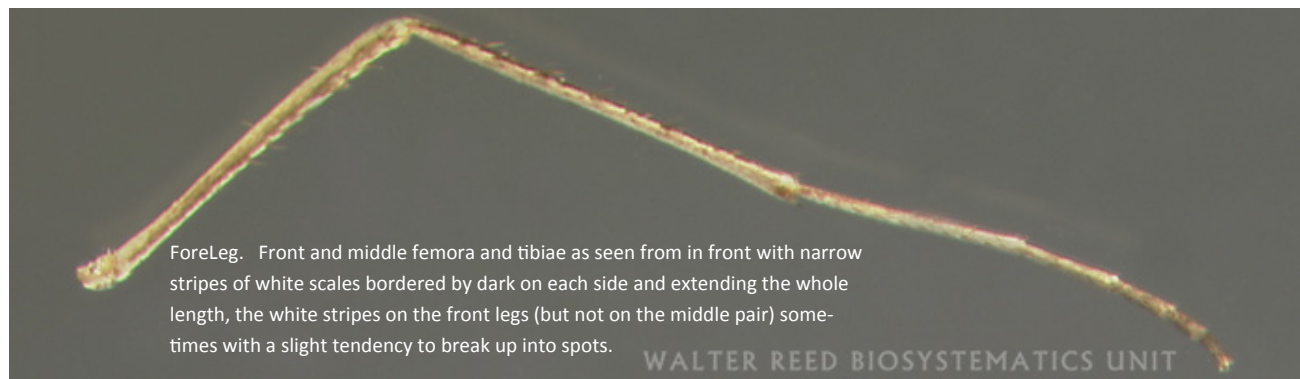
Abdomen. Tergite 2 without transverse band, but with a median longitudinal area of creamy-white scales which sometimes extends the whole length; 3-7 with creamy-white bands which are produced posteriorly in the middle and often almost equilaterally triangular.



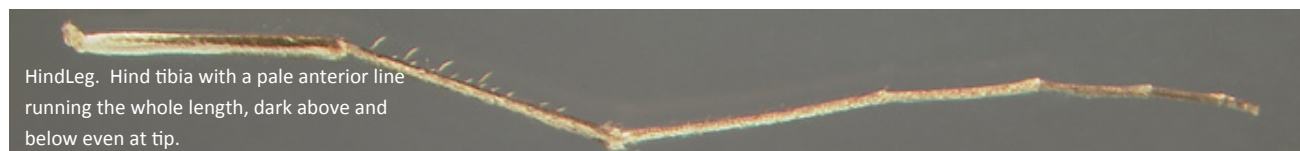
Abdomen sternites largely or entirely pale, dark scales even if fairly numerous not forming definite bands or stripes.

**Bionomics:** Larvae are found in permanent and temporary bodies of fresh, brackish, salt and foul water. They are commonly found in stagnant and slow-moving streams, irrigation ditches, mangrove and Nipa palm swamps, marshy pools, ground pools, cement tanks, abandoned wells, open cisterns. Artificial containers such as canoes, boats, jars and cans are utilized. Breeding sites are sunlit or shaded (Sirivanakarn, 1976). Females are mainly pig- and bird-feeders but will enter houses to bite man (Harbach, 1988).

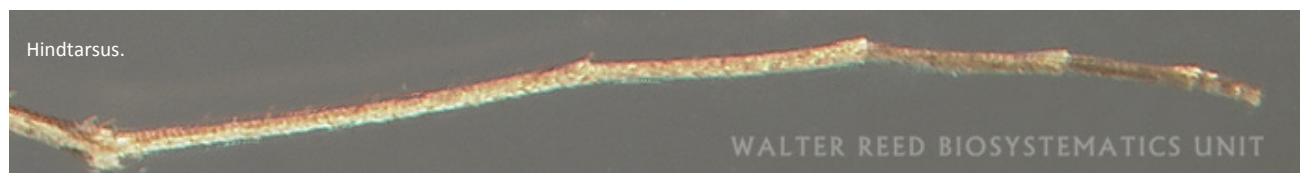
**Medical Importance:** *Cx. theileri* is the principal epidemic vector of Rift Valley fever virus (Bunyaviridae: Phlebovirus) on the inland plateau of southern Africa. (McIntosh, 1980)



ForeLeg. Front and middle femora and tibiae as seen from in front with narrow stripes of white scales bordered by dark on each side and extending the whole length, the white stripes on the front legs (but not on the middle pair) sometimes with a slight tendency to break up into spots.



HindLeg. Hind tibia with a pale anterior line running the whole length, dark above and below even at tip.



Hindtarsus.