

Lutzia (Metalutzia) tigripes de Grandpre & de Charmoy, WRBU specimen LTtig, Character descriptions: Edwards, 1941:247

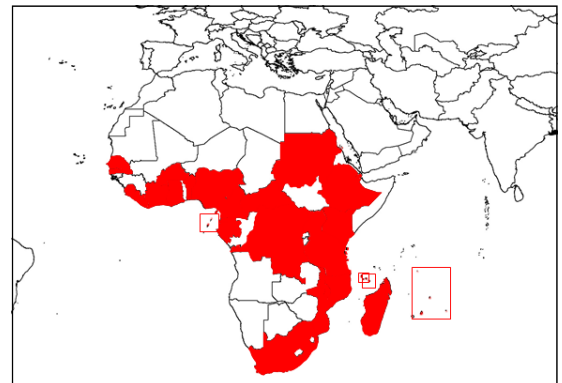
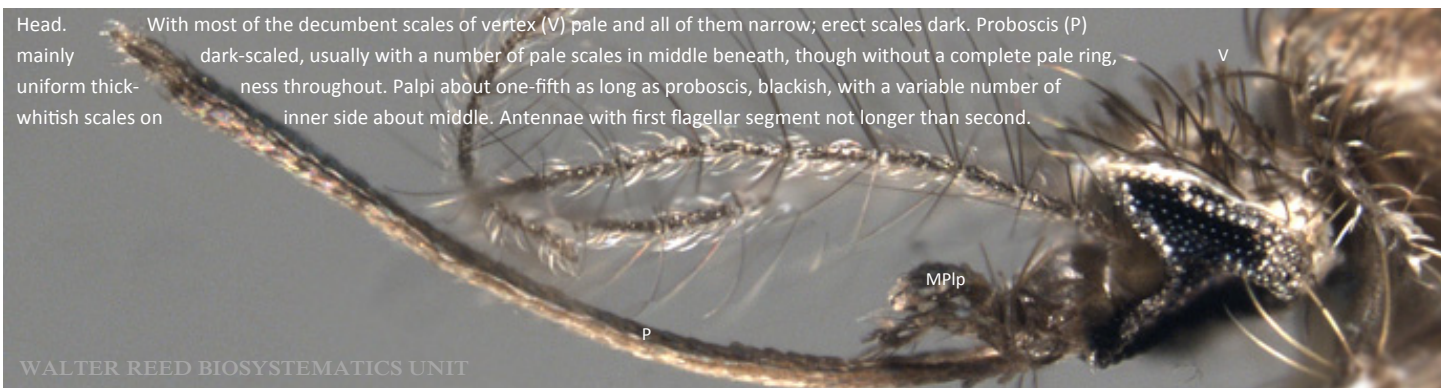
Genus level - One of the largest species of the genus ; usually distinguished very readily from any of its congeners and from most or all other -African mosquitoes by the markings of the femora and tibiae, the only other species with somewhat similar leg-markings in the African fauna being *Culex poecilipes* and *Theobaldia longiareolata*. With conspicuous pale mottling on anterior surfaces of femora. Lower mesepimeral hairs more numerous than usual in *Culex*, usually more than four (Edwards, 1941). Thorax. No post-spiracular scales, but a fairly large patch of white scales on upper part of mesepimeron. Propleura with numerous scales. Prosternum with 2-hairs or scales, or hairs and white scales mixed, longitudinally placed on each side of the middle line. Bristles on lower half of mesepimeron varying in number from three to ten, in a more or less regular row. Paratergite (Pa) always narrow and bare. Postspiracular area (PA) and prespiracular area (PsA) without setae (Postspiracular setae (PS) and prespiracular setae (PsS) absent). The adults have four or more lower mesepimeral setae (MeSL) a distinction from other Culicini.



Thorax. Posterior margin of scutellum trilobed, Thorax in most specimens with the greater part of the scutum clothed with dark brown scales, but with an ill-defined border of pale scales, and usually with pale scales forming three spots-a pair near middle of scutum and a median spot towards front margin



Head. With most of the decumbent scales of vertex (V) pale and all of them narrow; erect scales dark. Proboscis (P) mainly dark-scaled, usually with a number of pale scales in middle beneath, though without a complete pale ring, uniform thickness throughout. Palpi about one-fifth as long as proboscis, blackish, with a variable number of whitish scales on inner side about middle. Antennae with first flagellar segment not longer than second.



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Wing. Wings dark-scaled; base of upper fork cell always distinctly proximal to that of the lower, fork usually about 2.5 times length of stem ; m-cu usually about half its length proximal to r-m, sometimes less. . Microtrichia distinct. Upper calyptor fringed.

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Male head. Maxillary palpi as long as Proboscis. Antennae feather like.

Male. Resembles female, but markings often tending to be less definite, e.g. on hind tibia.

Palpi longer than proboscis and very hairy; a variable amount of pale scaling on outer surface of distal part of shaft; last two segments each with a conspicuous white spot at base beneath; terminal segment with the distal half pale beneath.

No Photo Available

Abdomen. Abdomen variable in markings, as described below;

(1) Tergites 2-7 with narrow pale apical yellowish bands, the bands on 6 and 7 rather broader, sometimes occupying almost half the tergite; sternites all palescaled, unbanded. The great majority of specimens from East and South Africa belong to this form.

(2) All tergites with blackish scales above and with white basal lateral spots (on tergite 8 a white basal band), no yellowish scales on distal margins of tergites, except occasionally a very few at extreme corners of 6 and 7; sternites all palescaled, unbanded. This is the usual form in West Africa.;

(3) Tergites as in the last, but sternites 5-7 or 3-7 with fairly well-marked dark apical bands, scarcely if at all interrupted in the middle.

(4) Tergites z-4 with narrow apical bands and with pairs of ill-defined yellowish spots ; 5 with a broader apical yellow band ; 6-8 entirely yellow-scaled ; sternites unbanded.

(5) Tergites z-5 with broad apical yellowish bands and sometimes also with narrower yellowish basal bands, 6-8 entirely or almost entirely yellow-scaled.

No Photos Available

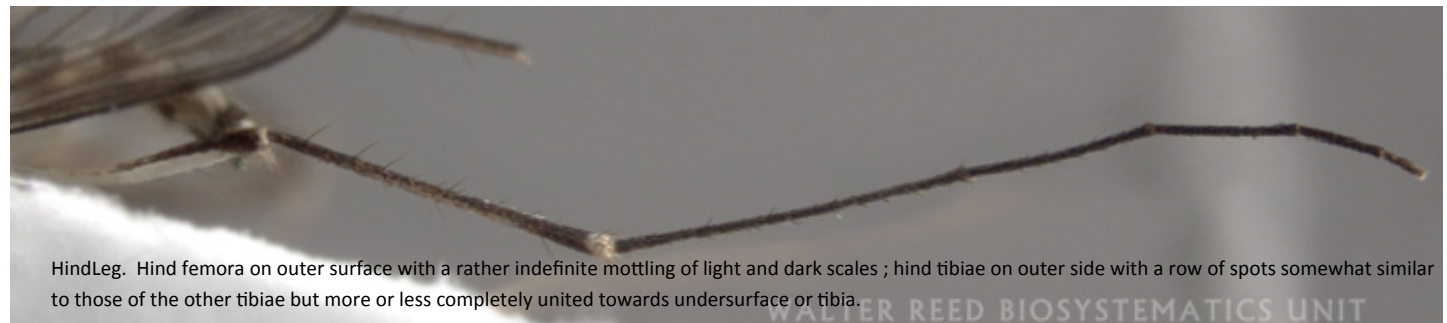
Bionomics: The subgenus is based mainly on the modifications of the larva for predacity.

Medical Importance: Has not been recorded as biting man, and is rarely seen in houses, but MacGregor stated (in conversation) that it attacks goats in Mauritius.(Edwards, 1941)

ForeLeg. Legs : Front and middle femora and tibiae as seen from in front each with a row of about ten small pale spots on a dark ground, the individual spots rather irregular in shape and sometimes with a slight tendency to coalesce ; usually some scattered pale scales in addition to the spots ; tarsi devoid of pale rings though sometimes with the first segment more or less pale beneath.

The pulvilli are large.

No Photos Available



HindLeg. Hind femora on outer surface with a rather indefinite mottling of light and dark scales ; hind tibiae on outer side with a row of spots somewhat similar to those of the other tibiae but more or less completely united towards undersurface or tibia.

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