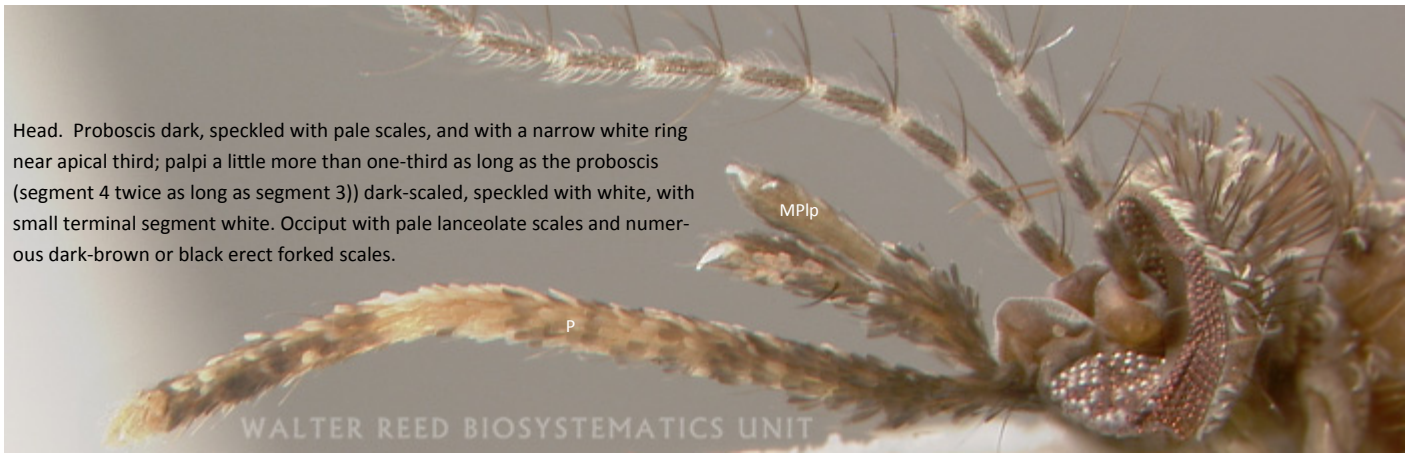
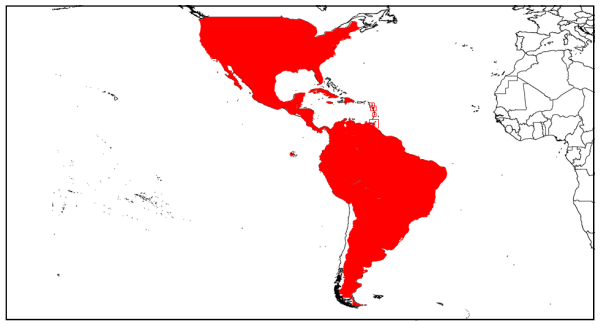
Mansonia (Mansonia) titillans (Walker, 1848), WRBU specimen MAtit, Character descriptions: Carpenter and LaCasse, 1955:107





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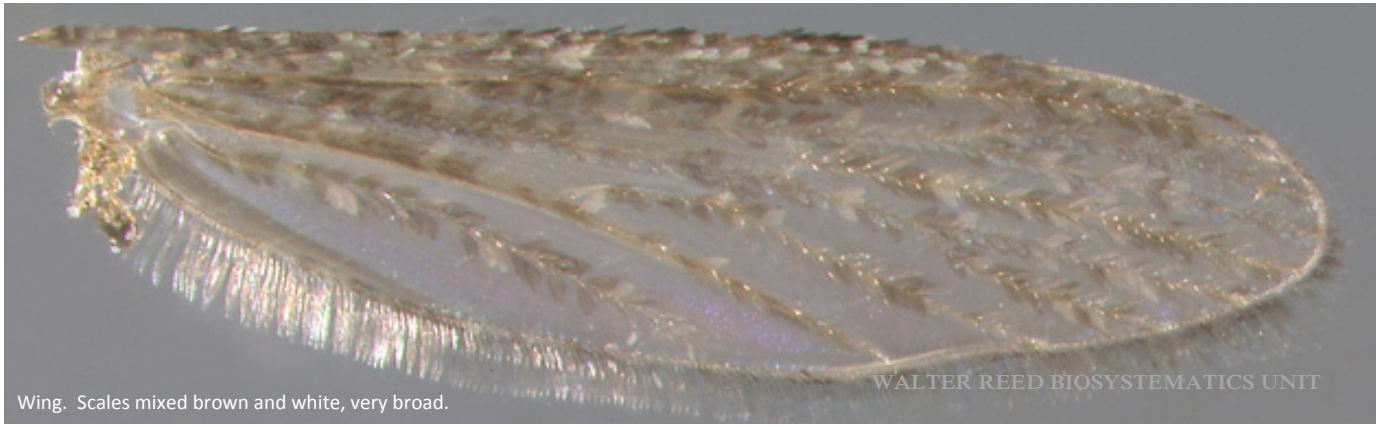

Wing. Scales mixed brown and white, very broad.

Male head.

No Photo Available

Abdomen. First tergite with median area pale-scaled; remaining tergites predominantly dark-scaled, with scattered yellow scales laterally, and with few to many yellow and white scales apically.

Abdomen. Eighth segment blunt, largely retracted within the seventh.

Bionomics: After hatching, the larvae attach themselves to the submerged roots of aquatic plants from which they obtain oxygen. The pupae also remain attached to the roots of the plants until time for emergence of the adults. Water lettuce (*Pistia*) and water hyacinth (*Eichornia crassipes*) are claimed to be the principal host plant. The females are troublesome out-of-doors biters and are known to fly several miles from marshes, ponds, and lakes where their immature stages occur. (Carpenter and LaCasse, 1955:108)

Medical Importance: The virus causing Venezuelan equine encephalitis (VEE) has been recovered from wild-caught *Mansonia titillans* in Trinidad and it is believed that the species may have been an important vector of this disease during an epidemic in Trinidad in 1942-1943. According to Belding, this species is known to be a vector of filariasis. (Carpenter and LaCasse, 1955:108)

ForeLeg. Tarsal segments 1 to 4 of front and middle legs each with a narrow basal white band.

MidLeg.

HindLeg. Femora and tibiae dark-brown-scaled, speckled with pale scales; posterior surface of middle and hind femora predominantly pale-scaled ; all segments of hind tarsus with white basal bands.