

MOSQUITOES (DIPTERA: CULICIDAE) OF THE VISTULA SPIT

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The Vistula-spit (Mierzeja Wiślana) is situated between the Vistula Lagoon (*Zalew Wiślany*) – a shallow reservoir of brackish water and the Bay of Gdańsk (*Zatoka Gdańska*) – a part of the Baltic Sea. It is about 50 km long and 0.5-1.8 km wide. The small town Krynica Morska situated there has belonged from the 30's to the to the most popular and overcrowded summer resorts of this region. Especially in tourist resorts, where mosquitoes can occur in enormous quantities, the problem of disturbance may cause serious damage to economy as in some localities in Poland (especially in its northern part) tourism is the main or the only source of income for majority of local inhabitants. Good knowledge of mosquito fauna is the essential condition of effective mosquito control action.

Mosquito larvae were caught with a dipper. Most larval habitats have shallow, stagnant water and max. 80 cm deep. A lot of them have dark-brown water being a result from a big amount of fallen leaves. They are situated in the town and in the forest on both sides of main roads leading along the Vistula-Spit. Adult mosquitoes were collected first of all using CO₂ traps. Moreover mosquitoes were caught on human bait in the forest (coniferous and mixed type) and in the cow-sheds using a Nabokov-Zeifert exhaustor. Mosquito males were collected from bushes and weed with an entomological net.

The first qualitative studies carried out on mosquito fauna in Krynica Morska region in 1959 showed occurrence of 13 mosquito species, among them those which usually occur in mass numbers and cause serious nuisance problems. The qualitative and quantitative studies on mosquito fauna in 2000 and 2001 showed the presence of 24 species, out of 47 being reported in Poland, representing 6 genera: *Aedes*, *Anopheles*, *Culex*, *Culiseta*, *Coquilleltidia* and *Ochlerotatus*. In this study we found 12 species new for this area: *Cs. annulata*, *Cs. morsitans*, *Cx. territans*, *Oc. annulipes*, *Oc. caspius*, *Oc. cataphylla*, *Oc. communis*, *Oc. exrucians*, *Oc. geniculatus*, *Oc. intrudens*, *Oc. leucomelas* and *Oc. sticticus*. So far, we have not noted two species previously recorded: *Cs. ochroptera* and *Oc. cyprius*. The predominant species was *Ochlerotatus cantans* followed by *Oc. communis*. Both are very common in Poland and can breed in huge amounts.