

Article

A NOTE ON THE USE OF BITING FLY TRAVERSES TO  
DETECT TSETSE

Since May 1960 regular flyrounds have been maintained in the Chipinda Pools Area in connection with investigations on the local Tabanidae. In addition to Tabanidae the survey hands engaged on this work were instructed to catch any tsetse that might be attracted to the bait animals.

It has been thought for some time that the chance of the detection of the presence of tsetse in very low densities would be improved if at the same time the survey hands were engaged in catching the more common Tabanidae on the principle that if many months passed without a catch of tsetse the survey hands would lose interest and therefore miss tsetse that might be attracted to the bait animals later in the searching campaign.

The value of this approach has been shown by recent work at Chipinda Pools.

For example the 'Lundi No. 1' traverse at Chipinda Pools was laid out in May, 1960. It is situated within about one hundred yards of the Lundi River about half a mile upstream from the main camp. It has eight stations at 100 yard intervals. This flyround was done 191 times between its commencement in May 1960 and the capture of the first tsetse on it on March 23rd 1961. The total catch on the flyround during that period of almost eleven months was as follows:-

<u>Phililiche medialis</u>	109
<u>P. silverlocki</u>	823
<u>P. zonata</u>	3
<u>P. fodiens</u>	16
<u>Tabanus gratus</u>	657
<u>T. pertinens</u>	95
<u>T. atrimanus</u>	2
<u>T. distinctus</u>	147
<u>T. unilineatus</u>	11
<u>T. copemani</u>	7
<u>Mesomyia decora</u>	17
<u>Haematopota albihirta</u>	633
<u>H. vittata</u>	234

<u>Glossina morsitans</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>2755</u>

To catch these 2755 haematophagous diptera the catching teams traversed 152,800 yards. Similar results have been obtained on Lundi No. 2, Ndari Traverse and Chipinda No. 2 traverse, with rather higher catches of G. morsitans on the last two.

Examples of the forms used to record these catches are attached to this report. All flies caught are retained and brought back to the main camp where they are sorted and identified by Field Assistants.

	1961			1960							Total		
	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.		Nov.	Dec.
<i>P. silverlocki</i>	690	70	63										823
<i>P. medialis</i>	84	11	14										109
<i>P. zonata</i>					3								3
<i>P. fodions</i>			16										16
<i>Tabanus gratus</i>	3	12	49		72	50	28	244	154	36	6	3	657
<i>T. pertinens</i>			5		50	10	2	2	20	4	2		95
<i>T. atrimanus</i>			1		1								2
<i>T. distinctus</i>	70		1									76	147
<i>T. unilincatus</i>	10	1											11
<i>T. copemani</i>	1	4	2										7
<i>Mosomyia decora</i>								7	10				17
<i>Haematopota albihirta</i>	69	78	276		67	37	2	2	25	19	20	38	633
<i>H. vittata</i>	27	15	83		52	20			2	4	4	27	234
<i>Glossina morsitans</i>			1										1
Number of catches	19	17	32		20	20	16	20	15	12	10	10	191



