

REPORT ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *G. pallidipes* IN THE
NAODSA RIVER VALLEY

After making a short survey of the fly position at Chipisa hot springs on the Sundi river it was decided to take the opportunity while down the escarpment to make a quick trip to the Naodsa River and check on the fly position there.

On the 13th while driving across a vlel (called Sungulu by the natives) approx. 10 miles by road from the drift across the Naodsa a *G. pallidipes* flew into the truck. This was captured and on stopping a further two were taken off the car. We continued onto the Naodsa after having shown the boys these flies and telling them to catch any others that should come into the car - a reward of 6d. a fly was offered. A further eight were taken between Sungulu and the river and the bounty was quickly withdrawn. As will be seen from the map the road runs close to the vlel for some way and it is thought that the majority of fly were picked up while driving alongside the vlel. Because of this we decided to return to Sungulu vlel and camp there. On the return trip to Sungulu another 5 flies were captured making a total of fourteen flies (10 males and 4 females) taken between the time we first arrived on the vlel at about 3.30 p.m. and when we returned to and pitched camp on the vlel at 5.30 p.m.

On the morning of the 14th we left camp just after first light and walked down to the Naodsa river. It was not at all cold at this early hour, the temperature was, I should say, over 60° F. We walked in rather a random manner for though the river was only about 1½ miles from camp we covered about ten miles (walked for 4 hours) as we were combining business with pleasure and were looking for fly, game and at the vegetation. We were only using one net and with this we captured ten flies (6 males, 4 females). I should say that had we been concentrating solely on fly we could have taken four times this number.

On the afternoon of the 14th another trip was made to the Naodsa by truck. Eight flies (2 males and 6 females) were captured on the forward journey, but none were taken on the return. Two boys were left at camp with instructions to catch fly around the camp - they managed to take eleven (6 males, 5 females).

A short evening catch was made using the truck with the tent flaps down to attract the fly. The truck was driven slowly across the vlel and the boys walked behind and on each side of it and in 20 minutes eleven flies were taken (5 males, 6 females).

The vlel vegetation is most suitable for *G. pallidipes* similarly that along the river. The openness of the vlel is broken by frequent semi-evergreen and evergreen thicket clumps, in many cases the thicket growing around large tree *Tamarindus indica* L., *Triplochiton zambesiacus* Milne-Redhead and *Burchardia discolor* Hemsl. on termite mounds and also by large tree *Combretum ternifolium* Engl. et Diels and *Piliostigma thossigi* (Hochst) Milne Redhead. Thicket species on the termite mounds are mainly *Combretum mossambicense* (Klotzsch) Engl. *Popowia obovata* (Benth.) Engl. et Diels., *Feretia aeruginescens* Stapf. and Capparidaceous shrubs. The only water hole on the vlel is surrounded by rather dense vegetation - tall tree species - *Tamarindus indica* L., *Diospyris mespiliformis* Hochst., *Acacia nigrescens* Oliv., small tree species - *Maba* sp., *Lorchocarpus capassa* Rolfe, *Antidesma venosum* E. Mey ex Tul; thicket species - *Feretia aeruginescens* Stapf. *Popowia obovata* (Benth.) Engl. et Diels, *Combretum mossambicense* (Klotzsch) Engl., *Jasminum fluminense* Vell., *Phyllanthus reticulatus* Poir.

Along the Naodsa river there are wide alluvial banks with tall tree *Acacia albida* Del. and thickets of *Combretum mossambicense*

Redhead the dominant species and more or less evergreen, this in turn gives way to a tall tree Acacia sp. (cf. heteracantha Burch.) with Combretum mossambicense (Klotzsch) Engl. and Gewia spp. thicket beneath - there is also a bit of Triplochiton zambesiacus Milne Redhead. Finally before the mopane other spp. vegetation there is a wide belt of thicket with Combretum elaeagnoides Klotzsch the main constituent. (The vegetation along the Naodsa reminded me very much of that along the Lubu river).

Game - four impala and 2 warthog were seen. The following spoor was recorded - Kudu, Buffalo, Eland and Elephant. Elephant appear to frequent the area a great deal. According to the natives bushbuck are common.

The impression gained was that G. pallidipes were more numerous on the Sungulu vlei area - this may have been due to the fact that most of the grass had been burnt on the vlei whereas a great deal of the river area still remained unburnt.

The density of G. pallidipes in the area appears to be fairly high for this specimen. This fly came readily to man at all times of the day.

The occurrence of G. pallidipes in the Naodsa river valley is of importance. This species may well be one of the causes of trypanosomiasis along the Mlelechi river area - the Mlelechi is a tributary of the Naodsa.

No G. morsitans catches were made. In the area concerned G. pallidipes appeared more numerous than G. morsitans.

We left Sungulu early on the morning of the 15th.

Desmond F. Lovemore.

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