

REPORT ON A SURVEY TO CONFIRM THE DISCOVERY BY A
NATIVE HUNTER OF G. PALLIDIPIES AT THE JUNCTION OF
THE MSINGWISI/REKOMITJIE RIVERS

The survey party (Mr. Boyd, Mr. Middleton Stokes, self and one fly boy) left Magunge camp on the morning of the 2nd of August and reached Rekomitjie mission late that afternoon - the mission is situated on the western bank of the Rekomitjie just at the foot of the escarpment where the river comes through the escarpment. Camp was made here.

It should be mentioned at this point that just 2 miles before the mission two G. pallidipes (male and female) flew into the car and were captured. The road here passes through rather thicketed vegetation fringing on the riverine thicket area of the alluvial banks of the Rekomitjie.

Early on the morning of the 6th the party set off for the Msingwisi/Rekomitjie junction. (Unfortunately the writer was sick from an attack of flu and had to remain behind in camp). An elephant path was followed. This at first lead away from the Rekomitjie river and straight up the escarpment, but later came back on to the river approx. 2 miles below the junction. Camp was made about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles downstream from the junction. This point was reached at approx. 12.30. Between where the path met the river 2 miles below the junction and the camp, a distance of about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile 3 G. pallidipes (males) were caught. The time of capture was approx. midday and it was very hot. Later in the afternoon a patrol was made to the junction and for about a mile up the Msingwisi. One G. pallidipes (male) was taken at about 4.00 p.m. about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile up the Msingwisi from the junction.

The party left camp to return to Rekomitjie mission early on the following morning. Three G. pallidipes (2 female, 1 male) were taken between the camp and where the path meets the river - same area as the 3 caught on the previous day. Another one (female) was caught at the foot of the escarpment just before reaching the mission. All flies were caught off members of the party.

Neither Mr. Boyd nor Mr. Stokes were able to make a survey of the vegetative spp. of the Msingwisi/Rekomitjie area. They described the vegetation though as rather thicketed with a tendency to brokenness. The tall tree spp. are mainly Acacia spp.

The Rekomitjie and Msingwisi rivers in the junction area lie in deep valleys - the ground rises steeply on either side from the banks of these rivers.

The writer was feeling much better when the party arrived back, and it was decided to extend the survey and check on the Chitaki (Chivaki) river - Mr. Stokes had suggested that the G. pallidipes recently caught at Manyangau may have come from this river. Zunga's at the foot of the escarpment was thought to be a good place to search, for the natives at Rekomitjie mission when asked if they knew that there are 2 different tsetse - one large and one small - said yes, but the large had only recently come and they reckoned that these had come from the Zunga area.

Zunga's unfortunately was never reached. The party started off for this place midday Thursday, but missed the turnoff and ended up at Nyawana pan at the foot of Chigarandoga (this is rather a high peak on the escarpment, and survey beacon). Camp was made here for the night. The following day a further search was made for the turnoff, but with no success - our native guide was a fraud. We then returned to the Chitaki road crossing.

from the Namana pools/Nyawana pan road fork and the other only 1 mile. The road passes through thicketed vegetation here.

From Chitaki road crossing we proceeded to Namana pools as from the description these sounded a likely G. pallidipes haunt. No G. pallidipes were found. The whole of Saturday was spent here.

On the return trip to the Chungwe on Sunday the 8th 4 G. pallidipes (3 females, 1 male) were captured off the car at the Ruiesi river - the Ruiesi lies about 12 miles west of the Rekomitjie.

G. morsitans -

Except for the Rekomitjie/Msingwisi junction area and the area covered above the escarpment G. morsitans occurs over the whole patrolled area in varying densities. Heavy concentration areas were noted on the Rekomitjie below the escarpment on the Chitaki and especially on the alluvial flats between these 2 rivers, also at Nyawana pan. At Namana pools this sp. was patchy.

Vegetation:-

Between the main road and Rekomitjie mission there is a general tendency to thicketing of the vegetation. There are vast alluvial areas (numerous rivers were crossed all draining down from the escarpment towards the Zambesi and the alluvial banks of these apparently merge in to each other) - covered partly by a tall tree Acacia sp. veg with Combretum mossambicense and Grewia spp thicket below, but mainly by a rather broken Combretum elaeagnoides thicket. The majority of the rivers here have a partly evergreen fringe of tall trees and thicket. The following are some of the spp. occurring along the Ruiesi river - tall tree:- Cordyla africana, Acacia sp., Tamarindus indicus. Thicket spp. Combretum mossambicense, Grewia spp, Combretum elaeagnoides. A few belts of mopane are traversed by this road.

The Rekomitjie and the Chitaki rivers are bounded by vast alluvial flats. Growing along the immediate river banks are tall tree A. albida with dense C. mossambicense and Grewia spp thicket below. This gives way to a tall tree Acacia sp (cf. heteracantha) with broken thicket below, mainly C. mossambicense, Grewia spp. and Capparis tomentosa. In places the vegetation of the flats is fairly open, the openness broken only by the clumps of thicket and the odd tall tree. Hyphaene palm bushes occur. Other tall tree spp. occurring are Kigelia pinnata, Lonchocarpus capassa, Acacia sieberiana, Tamarindus indicus, Cordyla africana. Along the Rekomitjie river near the mission the C. mossambicense and Grewia spp thicket below the tall tree Acacia albida is very dense - according to Mr. Stokes it is much thicker now than this time last year.

Between the Chitaki and Nyawana pan the vegetation varies from thicket to open mopane. Where the road runs near the river it passes through thicketed vegetation - a great deal of C. elaeagnoides thicket occurs - but away from the river the vegetation varies from mopane and mopane other genera on the flatter parts to an almost escarpment vegetation on the ridges - foothills of the escarpment; species occurring in the mopane other genera are - Maba sp., Commiphora spp., Terminalia spp., Combretum apiculatum, Ximimia americana, Erythroxylum mannii, Azelia quanzensis, Capparidaceous shrubs; Spp. occurring in the escarpment vegetation:- Brachystegia allenii, Diospyros kirkii, Diospyros sp., Julbernardia globiflora. Species occurring on the vleis in this rather mixed vegetation are tall tree Diospyros mespiliformis, Colophospermum mopane (still in leaf) and small tree Combretum apiculatum and Diospyros kirkii. Along the small rivers the main tree spp. occurring are Manilkara sp. and Tamarindus indicus with broken

Acacia sp. and with broken thicket - thicket spp. - C. mossambicense, Grewia spp. Acacia sp. Capparidaceous shrubs.

Namana pools are surrounded by a rather wide evergreen fringe of tall trees and thicket. Tall tree spp. recorded are - Tamarindus inducus, Ficus sp., Garcinia sp., Acacia albida, A. sieberiana, Kigelia pinnata, Lonchocarpus capassa, Combretum imberbe. Thicket spp. - Combretum mossambicense, Grewia spp. This gives way to an open mopane and mopane other genera vegetation.

Except for the riverine areas the greater part of the vegetation was leafless.

Game:-

The following animals were seen -

- Elephant - (2 bulls near Rekomitjie mission; 15 cows and calves at Nyawana pan, 7 cows and calves at Namana pools).
- Rhino - (1 Nyawana pan).
- Eland - (several herds Namana pools).
- Zebra - (numerous - Namana pools).
- Waterbuck- (1 herd Namana pools).
- Impala - (numerous - between Ruiesi and Rekomitjie rivers, Rekomitjie Chitaki alluvial flats, Nyawana pan, Namana pools).
- Warthog - (several - Namana pools).
- Bushbuck - (near Rekomitkie mission).

Buffalo by the amount of spoor seen are numerous around Namana pools. Elephant are common and are especially numerous on the Rekomitjie, at Nyawana pan and in the Namana pools area. No kudu were seen, but by the spoor these are common throughout the area.

An unfortunate incident with a Rhino occurred at Nyawana pan. A Rhino came into the camp during the night - probably attracted by the fire - and I had to shoot in self defence. It made off wounded. We followed the spoor next day - there was a good blood spoor, but unfortunately after half a mile the spoor was completely obliterated by elephant moving during the night.

The roads, except for the section from the Namana pools/ Nyawana pan fork to Nyawana pan were quite good.

At Makute gate we showed the gate guards G. pallidipes. The one guard immediately volunteered the information that he had seen this species near Gota-Gota.

G. pallidipes probably occurs on most of the rivers in the Zambesi valley and it is very possible that it covers larger areas during peak population periods. A detailed survey of the distribution of this fly should be made.

(Sgd) Desmond F. Lovemore.

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