

Description of the Egg of Aedes (Levua) suvae  
Stone and Bohart (Diptera: Culicidae)<sup>1</sup>

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The egg of Aedes (Levua) suvae Stone and Bohart is described for the first time herein. This is also the first description of the egg for the subgenus Levua Stone and Bohart. The following description is based on a single mature egg extracted from the abdomen of a museum specimen which possessed the following collection data on the labels: FIJI, Suva, 1955, C. B. Symes collector, genitalia preparation number T72.100 and SEAMP Accession Number 290. The nomenclature used in the description follows that of Kalpage and Brust (1958) and Craig and Horsfall (1960).

The exact nomenclatural status of the name suvae is in question and is discussed by Stone and Bohart (1944: 214), Belkin (1962: 399) and Stone (1963: 128).

DESCRIPTION OF THE EGG  
(Figs. 1-2)

Shape (Fig. 1). Fusiform; anterior end broadly rounded, posterior end with a gradual taper; greatest diameter towards anterior third. Size. Length 480 microns; width at widest point 170 microns. Color. Dark brown. Chorion (Fig. 2). Cleared section of chorion in transmitted light shows a reticulation of spindle-shaped cells with 1-8 irregularly rounded cellules in each cell; cellules are somewhat depressed.

DISCUSSION

The egg of suvae has a similar shape to those of several species of Ochlerotatus Lynch Arribalzaga, notably Aedes barri Rueger and Aedes diantaeus Howard, Dyar and Knab. The chorion sculpturing of suvae is not similar to any of the described eggs in the genus Aedes Meigen and appears to be unique. However, this is purely speculative since only a small number of subgenera are known in the egg stage.

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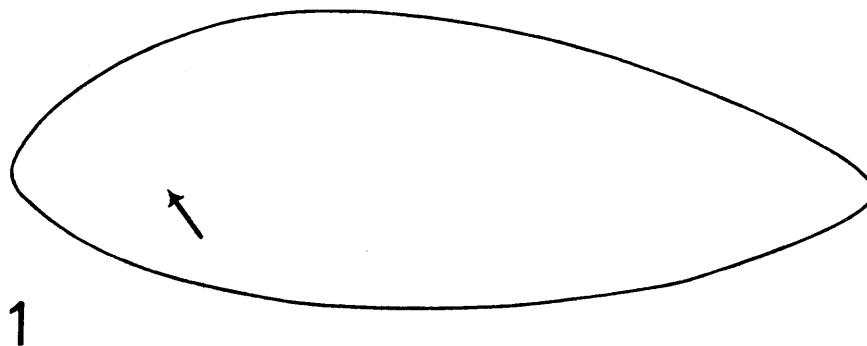
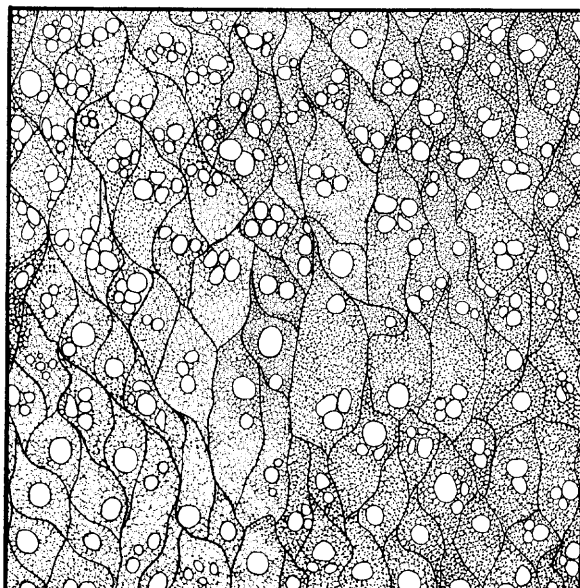


FIG. 1. Dorsoventral outline of Aedes (Levua) suvae egg illustrating the shape. Dorsal aspect is towards the top and anterior end is to the left.



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FIG. 2. Enlargement of egg chorion reticulation of Aedes (Levua) suvae from area indicated by the arrow in figure 1.

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