

NOTE

The Occurrence of the Human Warble Fly (*Dermatobia hominis*) in the Dry Deciduous Forest Lowlands of Costa Rica

In 1967, Banegas and coworkers stated clearly that *Dermatobia hominis* is "unable to survive the prolonged dry season in the lowlands along the Pacific coast" of Central America. While this statement may be true for the middle of an exposed and wind-blown pasture, it is clearly not true for the deciduous forest, riparian evergreen forest, and associated pasture in the Pacific coastal lowlands of Costa Rica. Many tens of students and researchers associated with the Organization for Tropical Studies and working in Guanacaste Province over the last 10 years have acquired one to many of these warble flies while working in the region between the government experiment station at Finca Taboga (10 km south of Cañas) and Parque Nacional Santa Rosa (near La Cruz near the Nicaraguan border). B. L. Bentley was parasitized by eight of them in a six-week period during the 1972 dry season at Finca Taboga. I reared one in my ankle until it emerged to pupate; it was acquired in mid-rainy season at Parque Nacional Santa Rosa. The exact habitat of infestation is not known, but all of the people who have acquired flies work extensively in the mosquito-ridden riparian forests that wind through the deciduous forest. If indeed this fly has difficulty with the severe dry season that occurs in this area, it probably retreats to the relatively moist, shady, and cool riparian evergreen forest during the dry season. In the evergreen forest there are adequate numbers of large animals (deer, peccaries, agoutis, howler monkeys, and perhaps others) which could serve as hosts for these flies during the dry season (assuming that the flies have no dormancy stage).

BANEGAS, A. D., H. MOURIER, and O. H. GRAHAM. 1967. Laboratory colonization of *Dermatobia hominis* (Diptera: Cuterebridae). Ann. ent. Soc. Am. 60:511-514.

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