

***Culex (Barraudius) pusillus*, a new occurrence record outside the Palaearctic Region**

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The subgenus *Barraudius* of *Culex* includes four species in the Palaearctic and Afrotropical regions. *Culex modestus* Ficalbi and *Cx. pusillus* Macquart are widespread in central and south-western Asia and northern Africa. *Culex modestus* also occurs in southern Europe. *Culex inatomii* Kamimura & Wada has been collected in Palaearctic Japan, Korea and Manchuria, and *Cx. richeti* Brunhes & Venhard is only known from the type locality in Nigeria. Specimens of these species are not commonly collected, especially as adults.

While recently identifying samples of *Culex* larvae submitted to The Natural History Museum, London, by the Municipality Health Department of Dubai, I found larvae of *Cx. pusillus* in four separate collections (4/31). Three of these collections contained only this species while the fourth also contained larvae of *Cx. (Culex) sitiens* Wiedemann and *Cx. (Cux.) tritaeniorhynchus* Giles. As far as I am aware, this is the first record of *Cx. pusillus* outside of the Palaearctic Region. This is not unexpected, however, since Edwards (1941) thought the species 'may occur in the south-eastern part of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan or in Somaliland'. Although the larvae are likely those of *Cx. pusillus*, the identification requires verification based on adult males with associated larval exuviae. Collection data are filed at the Dubai Municipality Health Department and voucher specimens are deposited in The Natural History Museum.

**Reference**

Edwards, F.W. (1941) *Mosquitoes of the Ethiopian Region III.—Culicine adults and pupae*. The British Museum (Natural History). London.