

**Additional notes on *Ochlerotatus geniculatus* (Olivier) in Denmark**

Boy Overgaard Nielsen

Institute of Biological Sciences, Department of Zoology, University of Aarhus,  
Building 135, Universitetsparken, DK-8000 Århus C, Denmark.

Email: boy.overgaard.nielsen@biology.au.dk

Dahl & Blackmore (2001) record *Oc. geniculatus* from a number of sites in eastern Denmark, primarily based on specimens kept in the Zoological Museum, Copenhagen. During recent decades I have collected the species in provinces in western Denmark and Christine Dahl invited me to present the records as a supplement to her review. The supplementary records are:

**East Jutland:** Lisbjerg-Trige Skov (skov = forest), NW of Århus. 1983: 18 June 3 females, 19 June 2 females, 20 June 1 female; 1984: 7 June 1 female, 9 July 2 females, 16 July 1 female, 18 July 2 females, 26 July 1 female, 25 August 1 female; 1985: 19 June 1 female, 24 June 1 female\*, 14 July 3 females, 27 July 2 females; 1986: 24 June 1 female, 1 July 1 female\*, 6 August 1 female; 1987: 22 July 1 female, 21 August 7 females, 3 September 1 female; 1988: 15 July 3 females, 2 August 1 female; 1989: 20 June 4 females; 1992: 29 June 2 females; 1997: 1 July 2 females, 6 August 5 females; 1998: 12 July 1 female, 10 August 5 females.

**East Jutland:** Skårupgård Skov, NW of Århus. 1987: 20 August 2 females.

**East Jutland:** Pyntskoven, Vosnäs Pynt, N of Århus. 2000: 10 December, pan, ramification of beech stem, 1 3rd instar larva; pan, buttress root of beech tree, 1 3rd instar larva; pan, buttress root of beech tree, 2 1st instar larvae, 1 2nd instar larva.

**North East Jutland:** Lyngholt, the island of Låsö. 1996: 3 June 1 female.

In Lisbjerg-Trige Skov two *Oc. geniculatus* females were swept in vegetation (marked \* in the list of records), all other specimens were collected at human bait, making up 0.1-0.7% of the total annual mosquito catch (standardised sampling programme). Sixteen females were caught in June, 19 in July, 20 in August and 1 in September. The majority was collected in the evening between 8 and 11 p.m., a few between 5 and 8 p.m. and one specimen in the early afternoon (2-3 p.m.). Newly emerged females were observed throughout the summer and dissection of 20 specimens revealed parous females from mid-July onward. Forty-one specimens were collected in old beech stands, 14 in alder-ash swamp forest and 3 in mixed deciduous (old beech and oak trees) and coniferous stands. In the latter two habitats invasion of *Oc. geniculatus* from neighbouring old beech stands is likely. In Lisbjerg-Trige Skov pans and rot-holes in mature beech trees are supposed to be the main breeding habitats. In this forest the tree hole habitat is not particularly endangered, since mature and dead trees are generally left in the stands. The records from Lisbjerg-Trige Skov show that a small but rather stable population of *Oc. geniculatus* inhabits the forest. In Skårupgård Skov the species was collected in old beech stands, the predominant tree growth of the forest. The presence of 3rd instar larvae in December 2000 in pans in the coastal forest at Pyntskoven is surprising; however in Denmark the late autumn and early winter of that year were exceptionally mild. The record from the island of Låsö, about 20 km from the mainland, is interesting. The specimen was collected in fenland overgrown with birch trees, some of which had developed rot-holes. In the early Middle Ages Låsö was well wooded; Scotch pine and oak were predominant. However, during subsequent centuries the forest was cleared and, up to around 1920, trees were quite exceptional on the island. Today Låsö is again wooded, birch being particularly abundant.

**Reference**

Dahl, C. & Blackmore, M.S. (2001) The distribution and status of *Ochlerotatus geniculatus* (Olivier) in Fennoscandia. *European Mosquito Bulletin* 9, 12-16.