

ENZOOTIC CIRCULATION OF EASTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS VIRUS IN PORTEL, AMAZON REGION, BRAZIL

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INTRODUCTION

Entomologic studies were developed in the municipality of Portel, Pará State, between 24 March and 2 April of 2004 (10 days).

MATERIAL and METHODS

Insects were collected at ground level and at forest canopy at 12-15 meters between 9:00 - 14:30.

RESULTS

A total of 3,995 hematophagous insects (Table 1) were captured belonging to forty-four Culicidae species, 2,978 (74.5%) of them at ground and 1,017 (25.5%) in the canopy that represented 30 and 77 lots for inoculation, respectively. The most prevalent species were *Haemagogus leucocelaenus* 545 (13.9%), *Hg. janthinomys* 521 (13.%), *Ochlerotatus argyrorhox* 435 (10.9%), *Oc. serratus* 396 (9.9%), *Sabethes chloropterus* 298 (7.5%), *Wyeomyia sp.* 297 (7.4%), *Oc. fulvus* 294 (7.3%), *Psorophora albipes* 258 (6.4%), *Trichoprosopon digitatum* 150 (3.7%) and *Limatus durhamii* 137 (3.4%). All mosquito pools were inoculated intracerebrally into newborn mice. Three strains of Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEEV) were isolated, two from lots of *Culex (Mel.) sp.* and another from *Coquillettidia (Rhy) arribalzagae*.

CONCLUSIONS

This is the first time that EEEV was isolated from mosquitoes of genus *Coquillettidia* and is the first report of this virus in Portel, Marajo Island. Further studies at molecular level must be performed in order to characterize strains isolated.

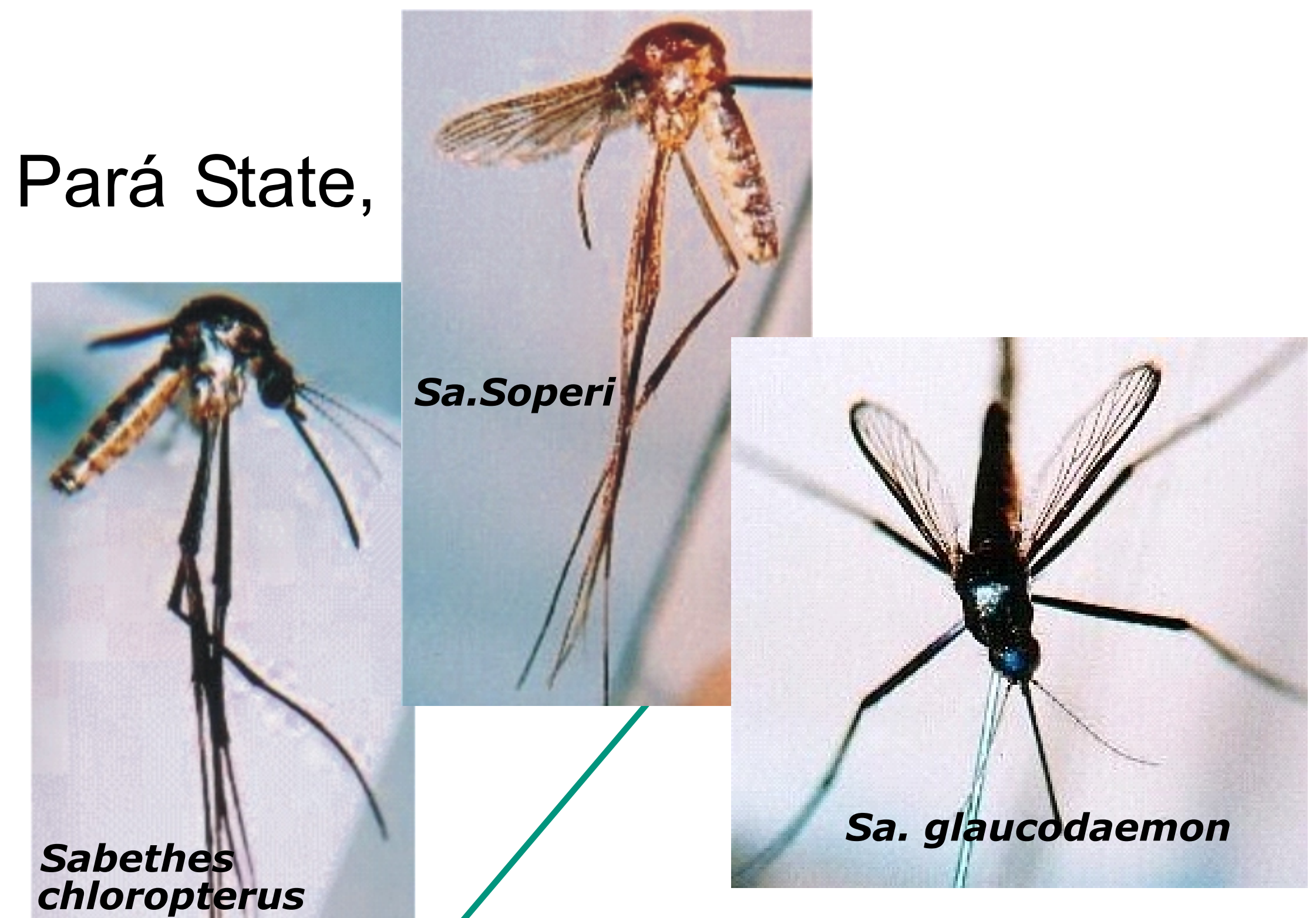


Table 1 Distribution of mosquitoes Culicidae collected in Portel municipality Pará State, Brazil

SPECIES	Number
An. (Ano.) species	1
Oc. (How.) species	2
Oc. (Och.) fulvus	47
Oc. (Och.) hastatus	2
Oc. (Och.) hortator	51
Oc. (Och.) scapularis	10
Oc. (Och.) serratus	597
Oc. (Pro.) argyrorhox	64
Hg. (Con.) leucocelaenus	1
Hg. (Hag.) janthinomys	48
Ps. (Gra.) cingulata	1
Ps. (Jan.) albipes	8
Ps. (Jan.) ferox	289
Ps. (Jan.) lutzii	2
Cx. (Cux.) species	217
Cx. (Cux.) declarator	19
Cx. (Cux.) coronator	5
Cx. (Car.) species	4
Cx. (Mel.) species	1198
Cx. (Mel.) portesi	25
Cx. (Mel.) pedroi	87
Cx. (Mel.) spissipes	54
Cx. (Mel.) vomerifer	25
Cq. (Rhy.) species	1
Cq. (Rhy.) arribalzagae	138
Cq. (Rhy.) venezuelensis	4
Ma. (Man.) titillans	5
Ma. (Man.) pseudotitillans	2
Li. species	146
Li. durhamii	1
Li. flavisetosus	1
Phoniomyia species	1
Sa. (Sab.) bipartipes	1
Sa. (Sab.) cyaneus	3
Sa. (Sab.) quascyaneus	3
Sa. (Sab.) tarsopus	1
Sa. (Sbo.) chloropterus	3
Sa. (Sbo.) glaucodaemon	7
Johnbelkinia longipes	2
Tr. (Trc.) digitatum	16
Wy. species	159
Wy. (Den.) melanocephala	1
Ur.(Ura) species	2
Ur.(Ura) geometrica	1
TOTAL GERAL	3.255

