

Short Communication

***Culicoides* (Diptera, Ceratopogonidae) Species Trapped at Eight Sites in Zimbabwe**

G. N. MUSUKA P. J. KELLY

The Biomedical Research and Training Institute PO Box CY1753 Causeway
Harare Zimbabwe

Key words: *Culicoides*, Diptera, Zimbabwe

There are more than 1400 named species of *Culicoides* (Boorman, 1990). Some of these *Culicoides* are known to transmit pathogens important to man and his livestock. Diseases, pathogens and conditions transmitted and caused by *Culicoides* include, sweet itch, protozoan parasites, filariae and viral infections. Most *Culicoides* species in Africa, including Zimbabwe have not been studied in detail. Therefore we identified those *Culicoides* species associated with livestock at 8 sites in Zimbabwe.

Culicoides were trapped using a 220V ultraviolet down-draught light traps with a 8W black-light tube. The traps were placed near (less than 500m) to domesticated animals. The traps were operated from 6 pm to 6 am once a week for varying periods from September 1996 to 1998. *Culicoides* were trapped in 0.5% chlorohexidine to reduce bacterial growth ['Salvon', ICL, (South Africa) Ltd] and were transferred by the light trap operators at the sites into 70% ethyl alcohol on the morning of capture. The catches were then stored at room temperature until analysis. The samples were labelled with details of the site and date when the *Culicoides* were trapped. Details of samples were logged for future reference. *Culicoides* were sorted from other insect genera and were counted and identified to species level using wing patterns under an incident light, dissecting microscope. As an aid to