



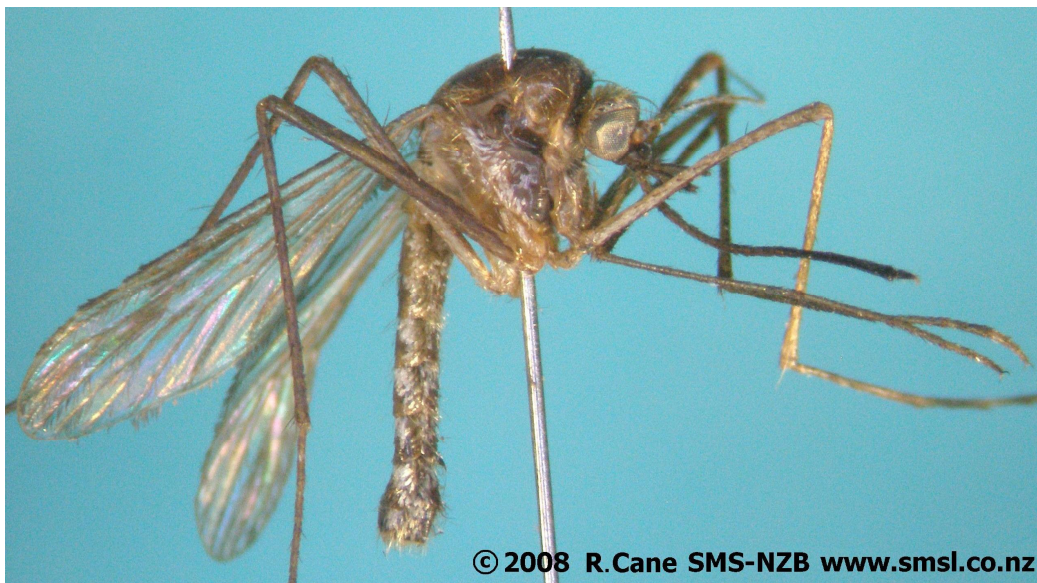
**NEW ZEALAND BIOSECURE**  
Entomology Laboratory



## *Coquillettidia (Austromansonia) tenuipalpis* (Edwards)

No common name

**NZ status: Endemic**



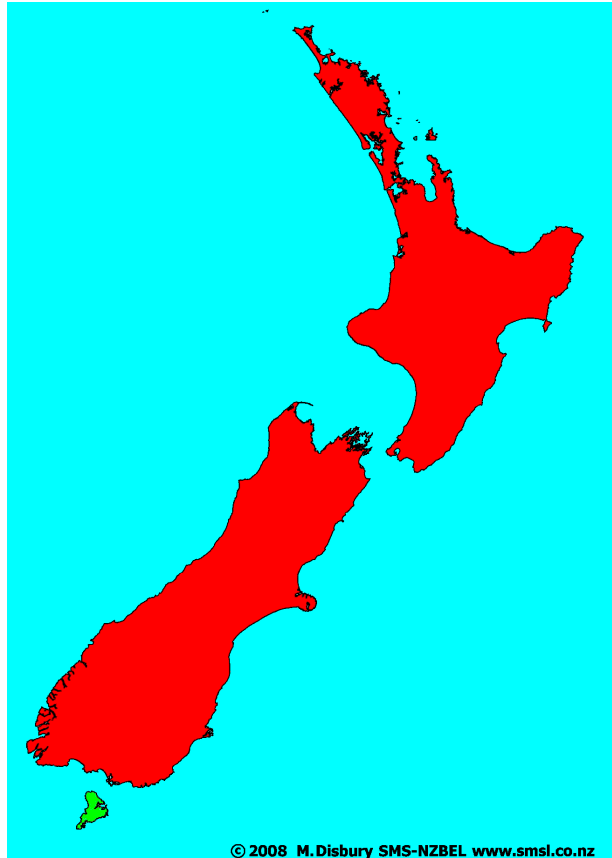
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### **Vector and Pest Status**

The vector status of *Coquillettidia tenuipalpis* is not currently known. It is not found in large numbers as is *Cq. iracunda* (Belkin, 1968; New Zealand BioSecure, unpublished data, 2007), and has no known pest status (Lee *et al.*, 1988). The females may bite man, but other hosts remain unknown (Belkin, 1968; Lee *et al.*, 1988).

### **Geographic Distribution**

*Coquillettidia tenuipalpis* is an endemic species widely present in rural areas in the North and South Islands (Belkin, 1968). It has been recorded in Auckland, Northland, Ohakune, Wellington, Fiordland, Otago and Southland (Belkin, 1968; Mackereth *et al.*, 2007).



NB. This map denotes the general areas where this species has been recorded, not actual distribution

### **Incursions and Interceptions**

*Coquillettidia tenuipalpis* has not been intercepted at New Zealand's borders.

### **Taxonomy**

First included as a species present in New Zealand by Edwards in 1924, it was originally placed within the genus *Taeniorhynchus* until re-examined by Belkin (1968) and placed in the genus *Coquillettidia*.

Because of the nature of the larval habitats, immature stages of this species have not been described in New Zealand, but members of this genus have highly modified siphons with a saw-like apparatus for piercing plant tissues (Belkin, 1968; Lee *et al.*, 1988).

Adult females are large, bronzy mosquitoes (Belkin, 1968). Their tergites have dark bronzy scales and basal lateral pale patches while the sternites are largely pale scaled (Belkin, 1968; Snell, 2005).

### **Habits and Habitat**

Larvae and pupae inhabit shallow margins of ponds, small lakes and permanent ground pools with vegetation. Larvae use their modified siphon to pierce aquatic plant tissues to access oxygen and remain attached to the plant (Bosak & Crans, 2002). Pupae achieve the same with the use of modified trumpets, and will remain attached to the plant until ready to emerge as an adult (Bosak & Crans, 2002).

Adult females may bite humans outdoors near breeding habitats (Belkin, 1968; Mark Disbury, New Zealand BioSecure, pers. com., 2007), and adults can be found resting

during the day in grasses and bushy vegetation (Belkin, 1968). Females have been caught in baited light traps at night during a 24 hour trapping experiment, indicating they are nocturnal feeders (Cane, 2008).

Dispersal habits remain unknown.

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