

Anopheles perplexens Ludlow

OVERWINTERING STAGE: Adult female.

PHENOLOGY: Multivoltine.

LARVAL HABITAT:

Larval habitats are not well defined, but they have been collected from limestone springs in Georgia.

HOST PREFERENCES:

Females are mammalian feeders.

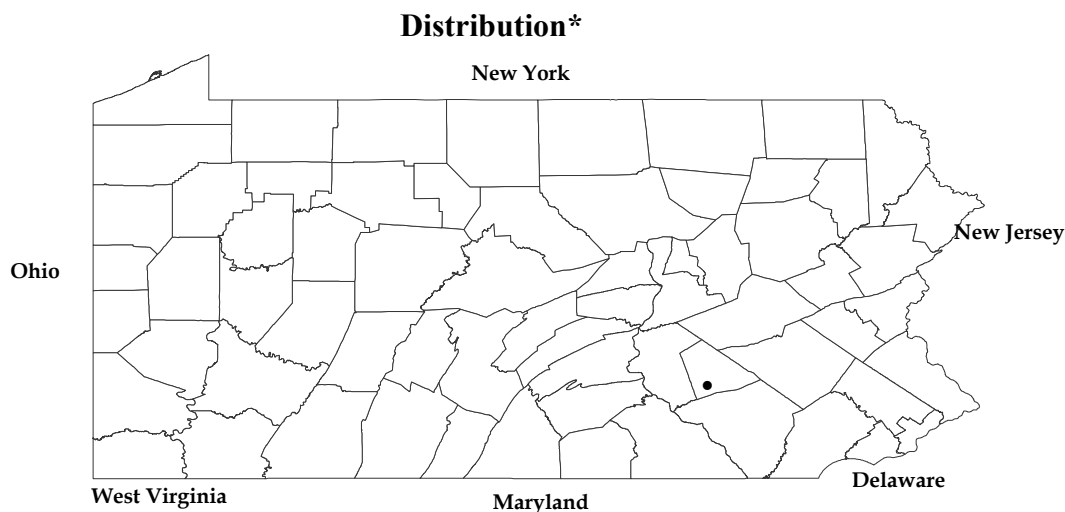
VIRUS TESTING RESULTS:

No specimens were tested for any arboviruses in Pennsylvania.

COMMENTS:

The original description of this species was from Mt. Gretna, Pennsylvania in 1907. Since then there has been considerable confusion regarding its taxonomic status. In 1917 *An. perplexens* was considered to be a dark form of the more common *An. punctipennis* and was placed in synonymy with the latter. In 1956 all life stages of both forms were studied and it was concluded that both forms exist and *An. perplexens* was resurrected as a valid species, although, it was still not clear if the original Mt. Gretna specimen was *An. perplexens* or just a dark form of *An. punctipennis*.

If it is eventually determined that the Mt. Gretna specimen was simply a dark form of *An. punctipennis*, then the name *An. perplexens* was created in error. Technically, the species that is currently being referred to as *An. perplexens* in the south should be renamed. During the course of the current survey, a small number of specimens have been collected that fit the description of *An. perplexens*. Interestingly, 3 adult female specimens were collected in 2007 near an artificial, alkaline lake with a pH in the vicinity 10.0, which concurs with their presumed preference for alkaline habitats. However, since their identity is not certain, only the 1907 record appears in the distribution map.



*Historical record.