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## Additional Records of *Triatoma sanguisuga*

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*Triatoma sanguisuga* was first reported in Oklahoma by Griffith (1). This specimen was found in a house in northwest Oklahoma City and a record of numerous bites was obtained from the occupants. You can imagine my surprise when I found a reduviid bug with apparently the same characteristics in my shoes on the morning of October 23, 1949 in my mother's basement apartment, also in northwest Oklahoma City. This bug appeared to be *Triatoma sanguisuga* and was later identified as such by Dr. Griffith. Another specimen was taken under the same circumstances November 28, 1949. Upon questioning, the residents reported no knowledge of bites by the bugs, which were regarded as "squash bugs."

In the spring of 1950 the residents collected 14 of these bugs and presented them to me. These included all stages from second-instar nymphs to adults. Another half dozen bugs were collected in the fall of 1951.

The only report of any bite that could be identified with the triatoma bugs was in May, 1952. The landlady suffered a bite just above her left eye which exhibited the typical swelling, redness, and extreme irritation as described by Dr. Griffith, and it was assumed to be the bite of a triatoma bug. No other bites of that nature have been reported.

Direct evidence of a method of their distribution was obtained June 1, 1952. After returning home from a visit to Oklahoma City, I found two adults in a bag of dirty laundry. This was in accordance with the suggestion by Griffith (1) that the bugs were introduced to the house where the species was first reported by traveling entertainers. As far as we know, we have transported no additional bugs from the Oklahoma City apartment.

The last two triatoma bugs were collected in May, 1953. They deposited eggs in their container and these later hatched. Liver and raw beef was placed in the container in a crude attempt to culture them. This proved unsuccessful. The bugs were shown and discussed in an Entomology class in late May. The next day one of the students brought in five triatoma bugs caught in a local eating establishment in Durant where he worked.

A search for the bugs was made over the past Thanksgiving weekend in Oklahoma City without results. A summer spray with DDT seems to have destroyed or greatly depleted that population. A further check has not been made in Durant to date. However, the large number of bugs found each time and the total number of *Triatoma sanguisuga* taken in Oklahoma City and Durant, indicate a need for further study of this bug in Oklahoma houses, not only because the bite is so painful for some individuals, but because farther south they carry the causative organisms for Chagas' disease, *Trypanosoma cruzi*, and could become a carrier here.

## LITERATURE CITED

1. GRIFFITH, MELVIN E. 1948. The bloodsucking conenose, or "Big Bedbug," *Triatoma sanguisuga* (Leconte), in an Oklahoma City household. Proc. Oklahoma Acad. Sci. 28:24-27.
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