ABSTRACT — We report and illustrate two abnormal spermathecae numbers found in Peruvian sandflies, a supernumerary spermatheca in *Lutzomyia conzattoi* and the absence of one spermatheca in *L. antouniannii*.  

Keywords: *Lutzomyia*, abnormal spermatheca, Peru.

Núñez Anomalias de Spermathecas en Flebótomos Peruanos (Diptera: Psychodidae).

RESUMO — Apresentamos e ilustramos duas espermathecas de flebotomos peruanos registradas com números anormais, uma espermatheca supernumerária em *Lutzomyia conzattoi* e a falta de uma espermatheca em *L. antouniannii*.

Palavras chave: *Lutzomyia*, espermathecas anormais, Peru.

INTRODUCTION

Anomalies in the number of different sandfly (Diptera: Psychodidae) structures are most frequently found in males; supernumerary style spines are most common. In females, a frequent abnormality found is in the number of cibarial teeth (PELIC/ANGELI et al., 1985). Anomalies in the shape or in the number of spermathecae are reported to be associated with gynandromorphism, such as the case of the obstruction of one individual due to a deformity caused by SHERLOCK (1958). The development of one spermatheca reported by RIOUX et al. (1974) and HARRAT et al. (1993).  

Female *Lutzomyia* sandflies normally have two spermathecae. In this paper we report two cases of abnormal numbers of spermathecae detected in Peruvian *L. conzattoi* sandflies from the tropical forest, Eastern Andean Cordillera.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The sandfly material The *Lutzomyia* individuals used for this study were identified and separated from the sandfly collection deposited in the Entomology Laboratory of the Instituto de Medicina Tropical Alexander von Humboldt, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru. The specimens separated were: one specimen of *Lutzomyia conzattoi* (BARRETO, 1946) with a supernumerary spermatheca and one specimen of *L. antouniannii* (ROOT, 1934) with the absence of one spermatheca.

The specimens were clarified with NaOH 10%, treated with lactic acid (3:4, v/v) and mounted in slides with Canada Balsam.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Two specimens of *Lutzomyia spp.* from Peru were found with abnor-


Impresso em Março de 1996.
mal spermatheca numbers. A brief description of them follows:

1.- A female specimen of *Lutzomyia carreiri* was found with one supernumerary spermatheca (Fig. 1a). The shape of the abnormal third spermatheca differs from the other pair. Measurements of all three spermathecae differ from those of normal individuals, caught from the same place (Table 1). The imbricated rings of the third abnormal spermatheca are irregularly inflated, the individual duct is connected directly to the middle of the common duct of the other pair. The spermatheca body and the individual duct are smaller in the third abnormal spermatheca than the other pair. From the normal 4 horizontal cibarial teeth, only vestiges of a central one are present (Fig. 1b).

This specimen was found in a collection of 482 females of *L. carreiri* from Colomadito (Pilcopata, Cuzco), at 1000 m above sea level, it was caught using CDC light traps in primary rain forest, on August 9, 1989.

2.- A female specimen of *Lutzomyia amazonomensis* was found with the absence of one spermatheca (Fig. 2). The spermatheca present is indistinguishable from that of normal individuals. The individual duct appears to be longer, but its basal portion represents the common duct of the normal specimens.

This specimen was found in a collection of 69 females of *L. amazonomensis* from Veinticinco de Diciembre (Yurimaguas, Loreto), at 230 m above sea level, and was caught using a Shannon trap with protected human bait, placed in secondary forest, on July 3, 1991.

The mechanisms causing abnormal spermatheca numbers in sandflies, or the physiological consequences and implications for their role as *Leishmania* vectors were not described. Both species mentioned here are highly anthropophilic, and *L. carreiri* was found naturally infected with *Leishmania braziliensis* (DEJESUS, 1992), and *L. amazonomensis* was recorded infected with flagellates (LAINSON et al., 1973).

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We thank M. Cabanillas for providing the material of *L. amazonomensis* and K. Jones, Department of Medical Illustration, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK, for his photographic work. The study was partially funded by (UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, Switzerland.)
Figure 1a. Last abdominal portion of the female specimen of *Lutzenya curvata* from Colorado (Pérezoapa, Cuaco) showing a supernumerary spermatheca (arrow). **Figure 1b.** The cibarium of the same specimen with only vestiges of the paired teeth (arrow).

**Figure 2.** Last abdominal portion of the *La anexocara* female specimen from Vitacora de Diciembre (Vitacora, Brandon) showing one spermatheca lacking. The bars are equivalent to 10 μm.

Abnormal spermathecae ...
Literature Cited


