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Population genetics in the American Tropics. XIV. *Drosophila melanogaster* Meigen in Colombian and Chinese natural habitats

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The *Drosophila melanogaster* species group is probably Asian in origin (STURTEVANT, 1942; PATTERSON and STONE, 1952) and the majority of its members are confined to biotopes in the Australian, Oriental and eastern Palearctic zoogeographical zones (BOCK and WHEELER, 1972). The most studied species of this genus, *Drosophila melanogaster* MEIGEN, has always been found commensal with man, as have some others, e. g., *simulans* STURTEVANT, *ananassae* DOLESCHALL and *kikkawai* BURLA. It is the purpose of this short paper to communicate that *D. melanogaster* can also be found in natural habitats. We have been able to find this species in several wild localities in Taiwan, Republic of China, and in Colombia, South America. In Table 2 we also present data for the relative frequency of *D. melanogaster* in two of these localities.

Our data show clearly that *D. melanogaster* can become at least marginally established in natural habitats. The common view that *D. melanogaster* is always confined to human habitats (BOCK and WHEELER) is not warranted for the Oriental and Tropical regions covered in this report.

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Table 1: Localities in which *Drosophila melanogaster* can be found at considerable distances from human communities.

Place	Distance from human habitation in km	Collectors
Wulai, Taiwan	3	Lin(1967, 1968), Hoenigsberg & Lin(1975)
Yun-Shui, Taiwan	2	Lin (1971)
Ken-ting, Taiwan	4	Lin (1967), Hoenigsberg & Lin (1975)
Jui-suei, Taiwan	4	Lin & Tseng (1971)
Chi-peng, Taiwan	4	Lin (1971)
Pescado, Colombia	35	Hoenigsberg (1974)
San Juan de Arama, Colombia	41	Hoenigsberg (1974)
Macarena, Colombia	42	Hoenigsberg (1972, 1973)
Minca, Colombia	4	Hoenigsberg (1973)

Table 2: Relative frequencies of species found with *Drosophila melanogaster* in Colombia (total flies = 943) and Taiwan (total flies = 1265) in localities far from human habitation. This list includes only species attracted to the baits used (in Colombia the baits consisted of fermented guayabas, mangoes, papayas, figs, bananas and avocados. In Taiwan only fermented bananas are used.)

Species	Place	% of collection
<i>D. willistoni</i> grp.	Minca, Colombia	40.51
<i>D. fumipennis</i>	" "	14.42
<i>D. nigrocincta</i>	" "	10.07
<i>D. capricorni</i>	" "	9.33
<i>D. shildi</i>	" "	5.20
<i>D. unipunctinata</i>	" "	5.12
<i>D. tripunctata</i>	" "	2.23
<i>D. lumiformis</i>	" "	1.59
<i>D. cactanea</i> -like	" "	1.59
<i>D. mediotriata</i>	" "	1.38
<i>D. unipunctinata</i> -like	" "	1.27
<i>D. angustibuca</i>	" "	0.64
<i>D. tripunctata</i> grp.	" "	0.53
<i>D. flavolineata</i>	" "	0.21
<i>D. parabocainensis</i>	" "	0.21
<i>D. nebulosa</i>	" "	0.21
<i>D. dubia</i>	" "	0.11
<i>D. albicans</i>	" "	0.11
<i>D. melanogaster</i>	" "	3.61
<i>D. albomicans</i>	Wulai, Taiwan	51.78
<i>D. bipectinata</i>	" "	22.61
<i>D. ananassae</i>	" "	9.80
<i>D. pseudoananassae</i>	" "	2.92
<i>D. kikkawai</i>	" "	2.92
<i>D. parabipectinata</i>	" "	2.53
<i>D. immigrans</i>	" "	1.82
<i>D. malerkotliana pallida</i>	" "	1.82
<i>D. malerkotliana nigra</i>	" "	1.42
<i>Liodrosophila</i> spp.	" "	0.23
<i>D. formosana</i>	" "	0.16
<i>D. montium</i> -like	" "	0.16
<i>D. prostipennis</i>	" "	0.16
<i>Microdrosophila</i> sp	" "	0.08
<i>Amiota orientalis</i>	" "	0.08
<i>D. melanogaster</i>	" "	2.29

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