

He desired us to look at his legs, "that we might be able to tell one day, beyond sea (por allá), what the poor monks suffer in the forests of Cassiquiare." Every sting leaving a small darkish brown point, his legs were so speckled that it was difficult to recognize the whiteness of his skin through the spots of coagulated blood. If the insects of the genus *Simulium* abound in the Cassiquiare, which has *white waters*, the culices or zancudos are so much the more rare; you scarcely find any there; while on the rivers of *black waters*, in the Atabapo and the Rio, there are generally some zancudos and no mosquitos.

I have just shown, from my own observations, how much the geographical distribution of venomous insects varies in this labyrinth of rivers with white and black waters. It were to be wished that a learned entomologist could study on the spot the specific differences of these noxious insects,* which in the torrid zone, in spite of their minute size, act an important point in the economy of nature. What appeared to us very remarkable, and is a fact known to all the missionaries, is, that the different species do not associate together, and that at different hours of the day you are stung by distinct species. Every time that the scene changes, and, to use the simple expression of the missionaries, other insects 'mount guard,' you have a few minutes, often a quarter of an hour, of repose. The insects that disappear have not their places instantly supplied by their successors. From half-past-six in the morning till five in the afternoon, the air is filled with mosquitos; which have not, as some travellers have stated, the form of our gnats,† but that of a small fly. They are simuliids of the family *Nemocera* of the system of Latreille. Their sting is as painful as that of the genus *Stomox*. It leaves a little reddish brown spot, which is extravasated and coagulated blood, where their proboscis has pierced the skin. An hour before sunset

* The *mosquito bovo* or *tenbiguài*; the *melero*, which always settles upon the eyes; the *tempranero*, or *putchiki*; the *jejen*; the gnat *rivero*; the great *zancudo*, or *matchaki*; the *cafafi*, &c.

† *Culex pipiens*. This difference between *mosquito* (little fly,—*simulium*) and *zancudo* (gnat,—*culex*) exists in all the Spanish colonies. The word *zancudo* signifies 'longlegs,'—*qui tiene las zancas largas*. The mosquitos of the Orinoco are the *moustiques*; the zancudos are the *maringouins* of French travellers.