

MIDGE STUDY JOINT EFFORT

A METHOD of monitoring the numbers of midge larvae in lakes and ponds near residential areas is being developed by CALM and Murdoch University.

Chief Waterbird Research Officer, Jim Lane, said the technique could be used to determine the most effective time to spray, which was just before the largest number of midge larvae pupate.

By taking this action at the right time, the reproductive cycle is broken, and the nuisance swarms of adult midges prevented.

Jim said there was no current biological base to determine the most effective time to spray.

He said the shires tend to respond to the number of phone calls received, but by that time, the midge cycle was already over because adult midges only live for a very few days.

Jim said if we know when the larvae numbers peak, shires could be told when it was the best time to spray.

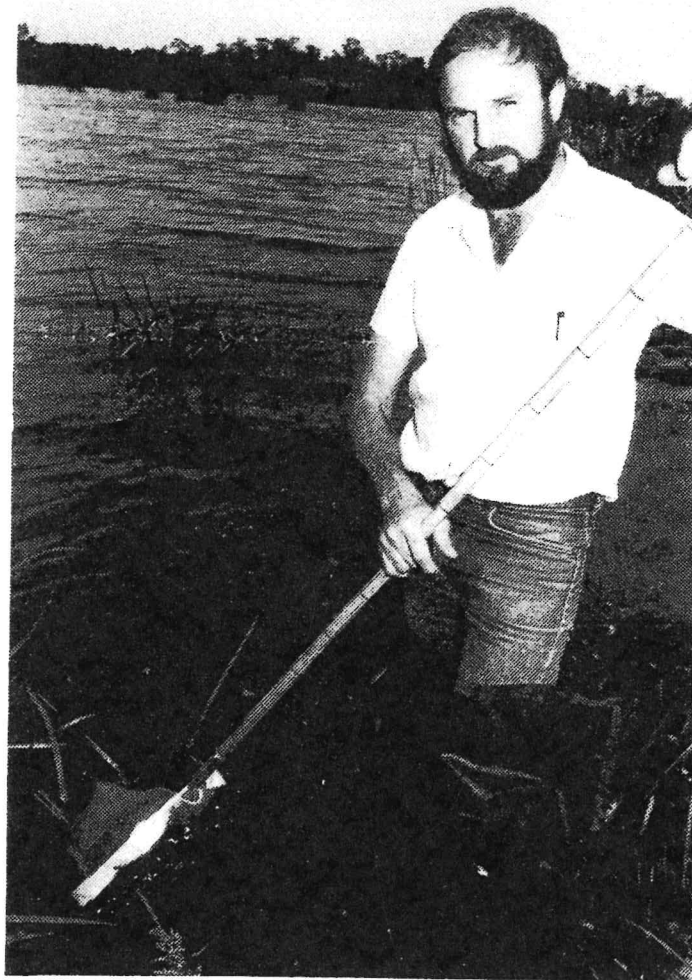
The monitoring method is being developed by Grant Pearson, Technical Officer at Woodvale, Dr Jenny Davis, a lecturer in Wetland Ecology at Murdoch, and Murdoch student Faye Christidos.

Grant and Faye count the number of larvae in samples from Forrestdale Lake.

The sampling will continue throughout the summer.

Following the long winter rains this year, the midge problem could last until March next year.

"Hopefully by the end of the summer, we will have developed a technique that requires about two days a fortnight to sample and do a data sort, either by CALM or by the shire, to determine the larval level," Jim said.



GRANT PEARSON gathers midge larvae at Forrestdale Lake.

CONSERVATION
LIBRARY, KENSINGTON

JOURNAL



080038-02.22

CALM NEWS

2(22) Dec 1986

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE