25th. April 1950.

Dear Bateman,

I think your problem must reduce to what I thought was Corbett's problem when Williams first showed me the data. It went quite well with a negative binomial truncated in his case, and with zero class absent, but it was when I saw how small k was that I was led to consider the limiting case when k is zero, and the zero case not only unobservable but infinitely frequent compared with the others. On that basis it was possible to make a test of significance showing that for his data, as for Williams', k did not differ significantly from zero.

If in your data it does, then certainly an estimate of the number of specimens becomes possible.

Sincerely yours,