Aedes albopictus (Skuse, 1894) - Asian tiger mosquito(Diptera, Culicidae). Chapter 14: Factsheets for 80 representative alien species

Alain Roques

14.27 – *Aedes albopictus* (Skuse, 1894) - Asian tiger mosquito (Diptera, Culicidae)

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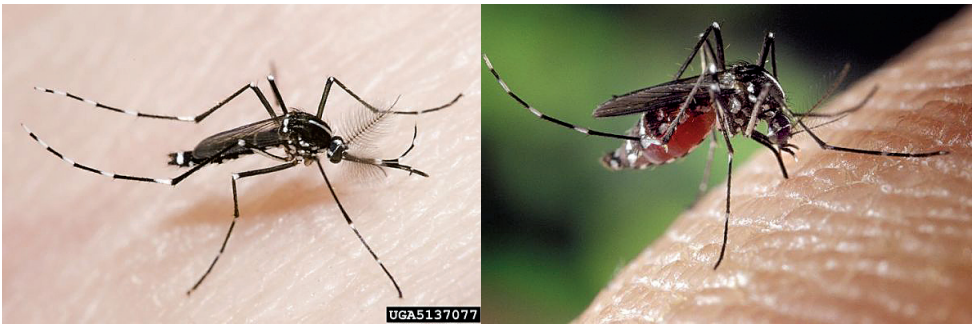
Description and biological cycle: Mosquito with black adult body and conspicuous white stripes on body and legs. Males (*Photo left*) have plumose antennae, whereas females have sparse short hairs (*Photo right- female on human skin*). Females are active during the day and are blood-feeders on vertebrates, including humans. Adult flight range is limited (200–400 m). Long-distance dispersal (eggs, larvae) mediated by human activity. Average fecundity of 150–250 eggs, up to 5 generations per year. Eggs are laid in the water in tree holes and domestic containers. Breeding populations are present from March to November; overwintering at egg stage. Eggs are resistant to desiccation and cold. Larvae require only 6 mm of water depth to complete life cycle. Areas at risk have mean winter temperatures higher than 0 °C, at least 500 mm precipitation and a warm-month mean temperature higher than 20 °C.

Native habitat (EUNIS code): G- Woodland and forest habitats and other wooded land; J6: Waste deposits. Typically breeds in tree holes and others small water collections surrounded by vegetation but also in peri-domestic containers filled with water.

Habitat occupied in invaded range (EUNIS code): J6: Waste deposits. Mostly opportunistic container breeder capable of using any type of artificial water container, especially discarded tyres, but also saucers under flower pots, bird baths, tin cans and plastic buckets. It can establish in non-urbanised areas lacking artificial containers.

Native range: Southeast Asia.

Introduced range: Continuous spread all over the world since the late 1970s. First recorded in Europe in 1979 in Albania. Then, accelerated expansion was observed in Southern Europe since 2000, mostly along the Mediterranean Coast (*Map*). Some spots were detected in northwestern Europe, where it was tentatively eradicated. Also introduced in the Middle East, Africa, the Caribbean and North and South America.



Credit: Susan Ellis, Bugwood.org (left), James Gathany, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, USA (right)