

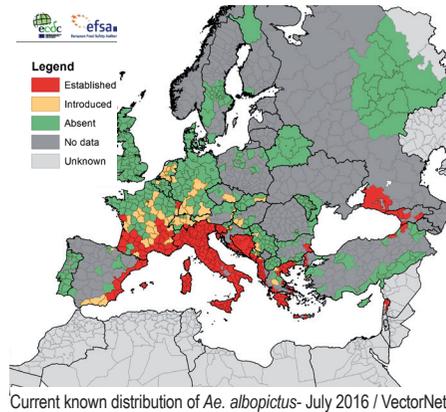
# *Aedes albopictus*



*Aedes albopictus* is currently the most invasive mosquito in the world. This mosquito can adapt to wide-ranging circumstances and is associated with human-made habitats, allowing it to spread in populated, urban areas. Its eggs are transported via the global trade of goods, particularly used tyres (cars, trucks, heavy vehicles, etc.) and 'lucky bamboo' plants. *Aedes albopictus* is already widespread and abundant in the Mediterranean basin where it is causing biting nuisance and has been implicated as a vector in the local transmission of dengue and chikungunya. In temperate populations, exposure to short-day lengths causes the female to produce diapausing eggs.



Distribution around the Mediterranean Basin / Originated from Asia, *Ae. albopictus* has succeeded in colonizing most continents in the past 30-40 years. The species was recorded for the first time in Europe in Albania in 1979, then in Italy in 1990 and is now present in 20 European countries. Today, it is established in most countries of the Mediterranean Sea, including Lebanon, Syria and Israel. Also recently observed in few localities in Morocco and Algeria.



Vector surveillance / European map available by ECDC/VectorNet

### Vector control /

- > Source reduction: elimination of stagnant water that is propitious for larvae
- > Spraying of chemical or organic pesticides
- > Use of repellents to reduce bites

### Transmission /

#### Proved vector of:

Dengue virus  
Chikungunya virus  
Dirofilaria

#### Potential vector of:

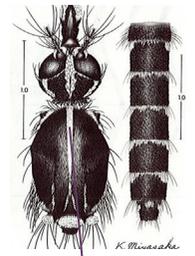
Zika virus  
Yellow Fever virus

### References, tools /

Guidelines for the surveillance of invasive mosquitoes in Europe  
<http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/healthtopics/vectors/mosquitoes/Pages/aedes-albopictus.aspx>

### Morphological description /

Mainly black with white stripes on legs and dorsal abdomen.



silvery median white line on the scutum



Length / 5 mm

Longevity as a biting insect / 3 weeks

Biting behaviour / Adult females bite aggressively, usually during the day and preferably outdoors.



Habitats / Natural and artificial habitats, some of which include tyres, barrels, rainwater gully catch basins and drinking troughs. Preference for suburban habitat with gardens ; also in urban habitats.

Host preference / Opportunistic feeder. Hosts include humans, domestic and wild animals, reptiles, birds and amphibians.

### Easily confused species



*Aedes cretinus*



*Aedes albopictus*



*Aedes unilineatus*

White stripes reaching to middle of scutum.