

Aedes albopictus

Family **Culicidae**

Subfamily **Culicinae**



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.

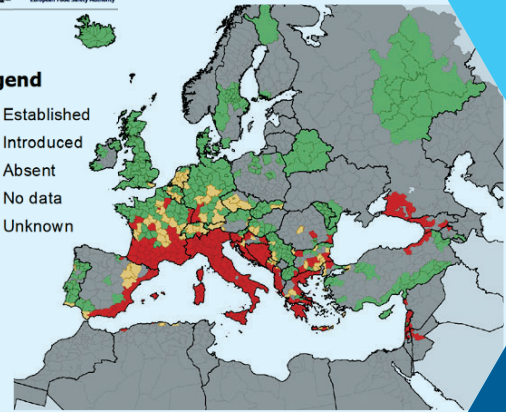
Distribution around the Mediterranean Basin

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 some 20 European countries. Today, it is established in most countries of the Mediterranean Sea, including Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Israel. Also recently observed in few localities in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia.



Legend

- Established
- Introduced
- Absent
- No data
- Unknown



Current known distribution of *Aedes albopictus*
January 2019 / VectorNet



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

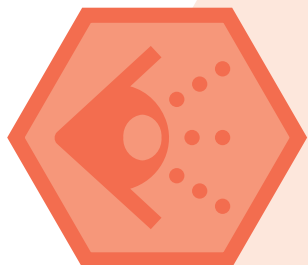
Chikungunya virus

Dirofilaria

Potential vector of:

Zika virus

Yellow fever virus



References, tools

ECDC Factsheet *Aedes albopictus*:

<http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/healthtopics/vectors/mosquitoes/Pages/aedes-albopictus.aspx>

Aedes (Stegomyia) albopictus

Common name: Asian Tiger mosquito

Synonyms: *Stegomyia albopicta*



MORPHOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION



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Mainly black; white stripes on legs and dorsal abdomen.



© IRD

Silvery median white line on the scutum



Body length: 5 mm



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



Immature habitats: Natural and artificial habitats, some of which include tyres, barrels, rainwater gully catch basins and drinking troughs. Preference for suburban habitats 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 the middle of scutum.

