

by Stefanie M. Schäfer & Kelly Martinou



# Mosquitoes and how you can reduce nuisance biting.

## Mosquitoes and you



Most of us will have been bitten by mosquitoes during the warm months of the year.

As mosquitoes need water to breed, people living near wetlands or marshes, close to ornamental ponds or uncovered rainwater collection tanks can therefore experience significant nuisance from these biting insects.

This flyer aims to inform you about what you can do to help protect yourself from mosquitoes.

Want to do more?

Share your knowledge and be a community educator: teach family, friends, and neighbours good anti-mosquito practice.

If in doubt...

Please contact us if you

- have further questions
- have a mosquito nuisance problem
- suspect you have spotted an invasive mosquito and/or want to send in a specimen for identification

thethreemosquitoers@gmail.com

## Mosquito life cycle

Apart from the adult mosquitoes, all other life stages are aquatic.

Once mated the female seeks a suitable host for a blood meal in order to produce eggs.

From these eggs that are either laid on or near a water surface mosquitoes develop through several larval and pupal stages before emerging as adults.

In warm weather and given the right conditions, mosquitoes can grow from egg into an adult in under a week!

Mosquito bite-sized facts

Most mosquito species will be particularly active from dusk till dawn.

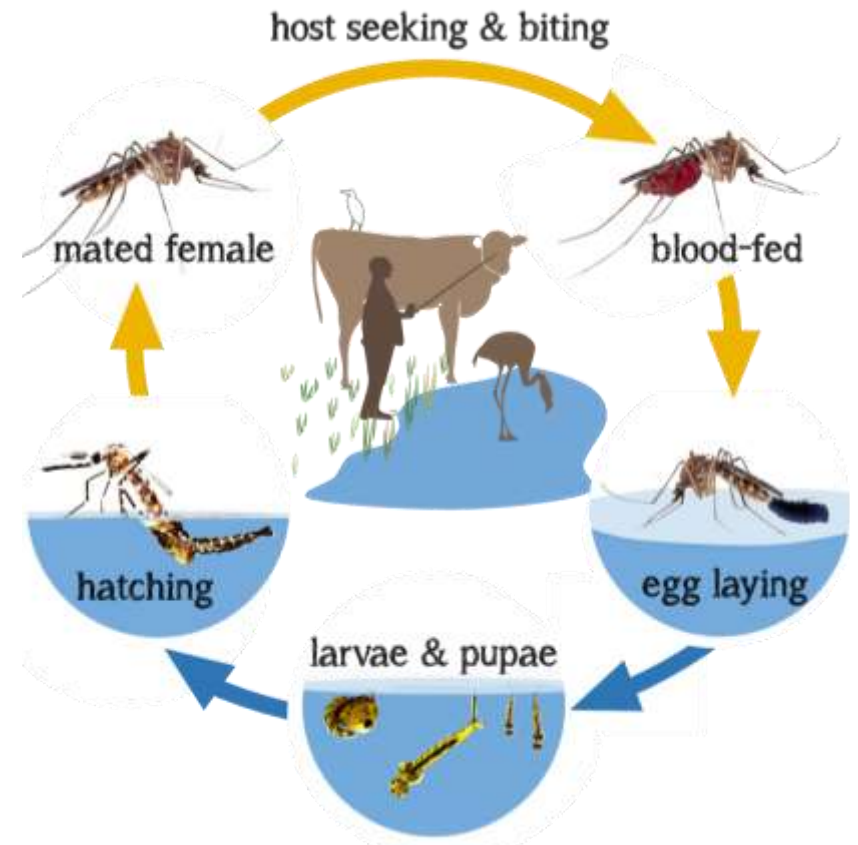
Only females bite. They require a blood-meal before laying eggs.

Of the 18 mosquito species native to Cyprus, only a handful are keen to bite humans.

These two non-native invasive mosquito species that are likely to arrive in Cyprus via trade ships in the next decade are highly attracted to people.

Asian tiger and Yellow fever mosquito

Drawings © Chris Shields





# Mosquito breeding sites



When it comes to water, many mosquito species are not too picky !

Some thrive in very salty temporary pools by the sea.

Others prefer the permanent stagnant fresh or brackish water in marshes, ponds, or open rainwater collection tanks.

For some species, even the smallest quantities of rainwater collected in tree holes, disused car tyres, watering cans, or even a plant saucer can be enough !



## What you can do

**Protection** - avoid being bitten by:

- timing outdoor activities so they do not coincide with when mosquitoes are most active
- installing physical barriers to your house (insect screens or mosquito bed nets)
- applying insect repellent and wearing protective clothing

**Prevention** - identify and eliminate potential breeding sites in your neighbourhood:

- Check regularly for sources of standing water
- Cover any standing water, such as rainwater collection butts
- If you see small larvae developing in the water there might be an entry point for egg laying females



## Top garden hygiene tips

- Turn over unused buckets, watering cans and plant pots
- Remove anything that could contain even small collections of water, avoid the use of plant saucers

## What we do

**Surveillance** :

- The Joint Services Health (JSHU) of the British Forces regularly surveys for mosquito adult and larvae around natural and artificial breeding sites.
- JSHU's **Laboratory of Vector Ecology & Applied Entomology** is responsible for the monitoring schemes for native and non-native mosquitoes.

**Control** :

- **JSHU** runs an integrated vector management programme in all Sovereign Base Areas in Cyprus.
- **JSHU** undertakes mosquito control for 8-10 months per year, using a natural biocontrol agent (Bti) in order to comply with environmental legislation.

**Education** :

- The **Laboratory of Vector Ecology & Applied Entomology** provides guidance on mosquito control.
- It offers education programmes to school children and adults of all ages through the



**Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre**

Κέντρο Περιβαλλοντικής Εκπαίδευσης Ακροτιρίου