

Aedes albopictus

SYSTEM

Terrestrial

COMMON NAMES

English: forest day mosquito; Asian tiger mosquito; tiger mosquito

DESCRIPTION

Adults are known as tiger mosquitoes due to their conspicuous patterns of very black bodies with white stripes. Also, there is a distinctive single white band (stripe) down the length of the back. The body length is about 3/16-inch long. Like all mosquitoes, Asian tiger mosquitoes are small, fragile insects with slender bodies, one pair of narrow wings, and three pairs of long, slender legs. They have an elongate proboscis with which the female bites and feeds on blood.

NATIVE RANGE

WORLD: Japan

KNOWN INTRODUCED RANGE

ASEAN: Thailand

WORLD: Albania; Argentina; Australia; Barbados; Belgium; Bermuda; Bolivia; Bosnia And Herzegovina; Brazil; Cameroon; Cayman Islands; Chile; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Croatia; Cuba; Dominican Republic; El Salvador; Equatorial Guinea; Fiji; France; Gabon; Greece; Guatemala; Honduras; Israel; Italy; Lebanon; Madagascar; Mexico; Montenegro; Netherlands; New Zealand; Nicaragua; Nigeria; Panama; Paraguay; Reunion; Serbia; Slovenia; Solomon Islands; South Africa; Spain; Switzerland; Syrian Arab Republic; Taiwan; Trinidad And Tobago; United States; Venezuela

PATHWAY

Transport - Container/bulk; Contaminant on plants; Transportation of habitat material; Vehicles

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

During the summer of 2001, containerised shipments from China of the plant known as Lucky Bamboo (*Dracaena* spp.) were found to contain *A. albopictus* on inspection by quarantine officers on arrival at Los Angeles, USA (Linthicum 2001, in Eritja et al. 2005). This route of spread became an issue only after traders swapped from dry freight to low cost shipping routes (which required the plants to be shipped in standing water to preserve them for the longer voyage). Movement of moist vegetation, wet tyres or water containers that can hold eggs or larvae. Movement of moist vegetation, wet tires or water containers that hold eggs or larvae. The adult flight range is quite short. Therefore, most medium and long range colonization is the result of passive transportation by

humans. This may occur, for example, in the movement of used tires in trucks (Eritja et al. 2005).

IMPACTS

The tiger mosquito is an aggressive outdoor day biter that has a very broad host range and attacks humans, livestock, amphibians, reptiles and birds (Eritja et al. 2005). The tiger mosquito is associated with the transmission of many human diseases, including the viruses: Dengue, West Nile and Japanese Encephalitis.

Source: Global Invasive Species Database (2020) Species profile: *Aedes albopictus*.
Downloaded from <http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/speciesname/Aedes+albopictus> on 07-04-2020.



Photo credit: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/disease-vectors/facts/mosquito-factsheets/aedes-albopictus> accessed on 7-April-2020