



NEW ZEALAND BioSECURE

Entomology Laboratory



*Anopheles (Cellia) farauti* s.s. Laveran

**NZ Status: Not Present – NSP Watchlist**



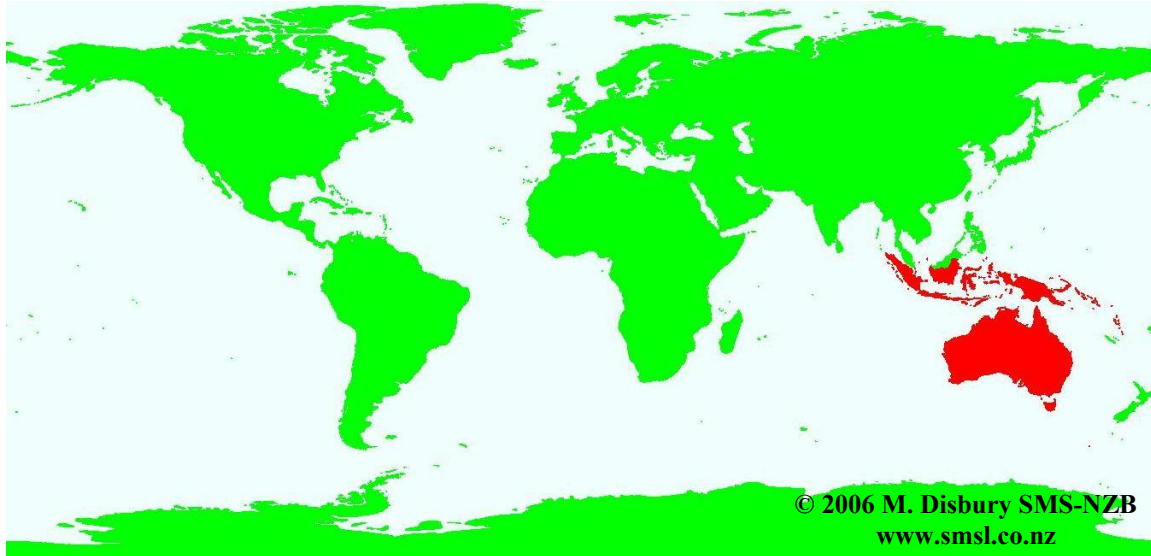
#### **Vector and Pest Status**

*Anopheles farauti* s.s. is a vector of malaria, and is highly susceptible to *Plasmodium vivax* and *P. falciparum* (Lee *et al.*, 1988). It is also a vector of Bancroftian filariasis (*Wuchereria bancrofti*) (Lee *et al.*, 1988).

#### **Geographic Distribution**

The *Anopheles punctulatus* group (including *An. farauti*) is present in Australia, Indonesia, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Bismark Archipelago and the islands of Vanuatu (Lee *et al.*, 1988). *Anopheles farauti* s.s. is the most widely

distributed species of the group and is found throughout northern Australia, Papua New Guinea, eastern Indonesia, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu (Beebe *et al.*, 2000b).



This map denotes only the country or general areas where this species has been recorded, not actual distribution.

### Interceptions and Incursions

This species has not been intercepted in New Zealand.

### Taxonomy

*Anopheles farauti* is part of the *An. punctulatus* group, which are important vectors of malaria in the southwest Pacific. Presently the group is considered to contain about 12 cryptic species with overlapping morphology (Beebe *et al.*, 2000b), including:

- *An. farauti* s.s. Laveran (formerly *An. farauti* No. 1) (Schmidt *et al.*, 2001b)
- *An. hinesorum* Schmidt sp.n. (formerly *An. farauti* No. 2) (Schmidt *et al.*, 2001b)
- *An. torresiensis* Schmidt sp.n. (formerly *An. farauti* No. 3) (Schmidt *et al.*, 2001b)
- *An. farauti* No. 4-6,
- *An. irenicus* Schmidt sp.n. (formerly *An. farauti* No. 7) (Schmidt *et al.*, 2001a)
- *An. punctulatus* Donitz
- *An. sp. near punctulatus*
- *An. koliensis* Owen
- *An. clowi* Rozeboom and Knight (Cooper *et al.*, 2000)

Some members of this group cannot be reliably identified by morphological markers, making field studies on their biology and behaviour difficult, only recently has work to determine their distributions been initiated (Beebe *et al.*, 2000b).

### Habits and Habitats

*Anopheles farauti* s.s. is a coastal species which has larvae that are tolerant of saline conditions (Sweeny, 1987), although they will also breed in fresh water (Beebe *et al.*, 2000a). Breeding sites include the margins of creeks and rivers entering the sea, pools and swamps formed behind beaches and coastal sand dunes (Beebe *et al.*, 2000b), semi-permanent groundwaters with emergent vegetation such as swamps, lagoons and ponds, pig wallows, garden pools and containers such as tins, coconut shells drums and canoes (Lee *et al.*, 1988).

This species is capable of crossing large expanses of water as indicated by its presence in the Solomon and Vanuatu islands (Beebe *et al.*, 2000b).

In a biting study on the Solomon Islands investigating three members of the complex, *An. farauti* s.s. was the only species collected on human bait, with a much higher biting rate early in the evening between 6:30pm-8pm than later between 9pm-12am (Beebe *et al.*, 2000a).

Adult females predominantly bite at night, both indoors and outdoors. Variations in peak biting activity have also been recorded (Lee *et al.*, 1988).

## References

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