

# How to take a good mozzie picture

Some helpful hints to take a good  
picture for ID purposes



# Mozzie picture time

## What is it?

Take a picture and send it to the lab via text or e-mail

On-call phone: **021 522 476**

e-mail: **taxonomy@nzbiosecure.net.nz**

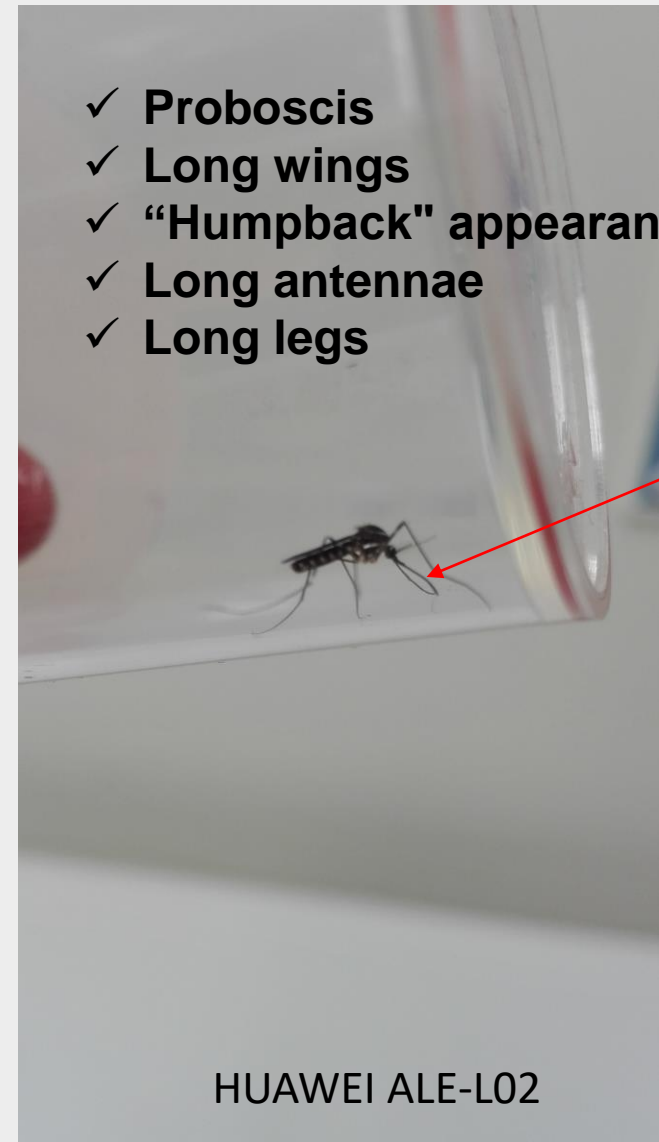
If the insect is alive

Try taking a first picture with the suspected mosquito in the sampling jar.

Key points:

- ✓ White background
- ✓ Angle: showing the proboscis
- ✓ No reflections in the jar/tube

- ✓ **Proboscis**
- ✓ **Long wings**
- ✓ **“Humpback” appearance**
- ✓ **Long antennae**
- ✓ **Long legs**



# Is it a mosquito?



HUAWEI ALE-L02



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# It IS a Mosquito!

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Samsung Galaxy J3  
SM-J320NZ



Apple iPhone 7



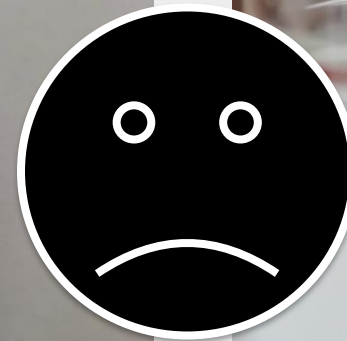
# Is it a native or exotic mosquito?



Samsung Galaxy J3  
SM-J320NZ



Apple iPhone 7



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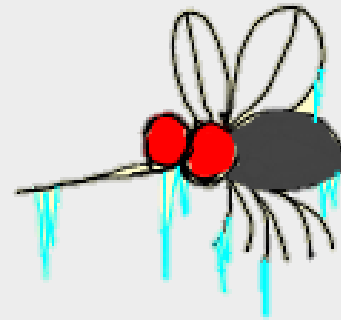
# Is it a native or exotic mosquito?

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- ✓ Kill the mosquito or slow it down



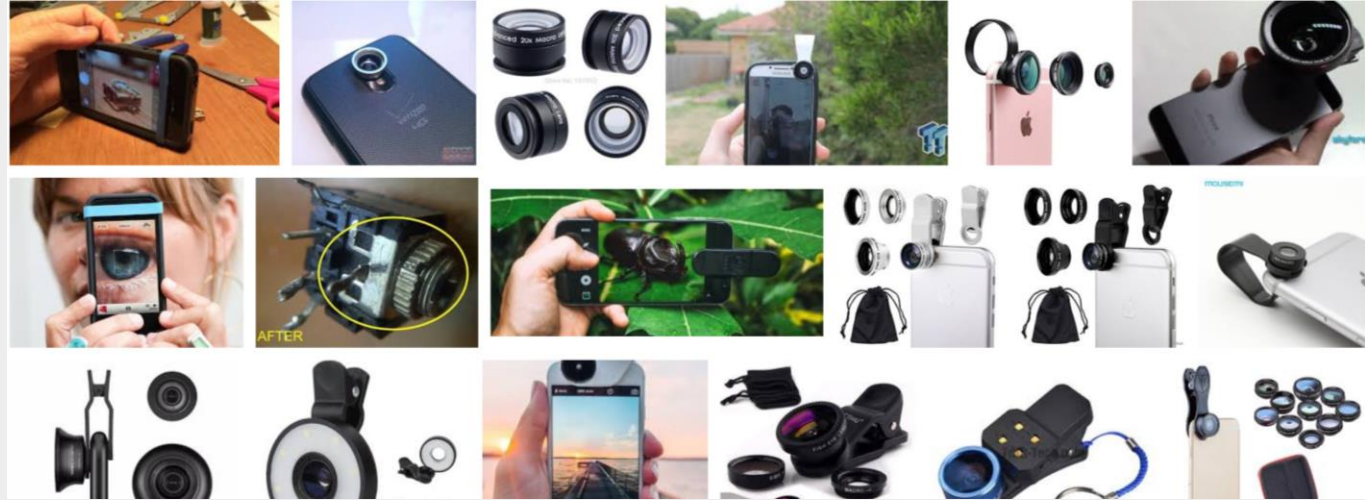
Freezer (15 - 20 minutes)  
Fridge (30 - 120 minutes)



# Mozzie picture time

- ✓ Clip the macro lens on your phone (center it carefully)

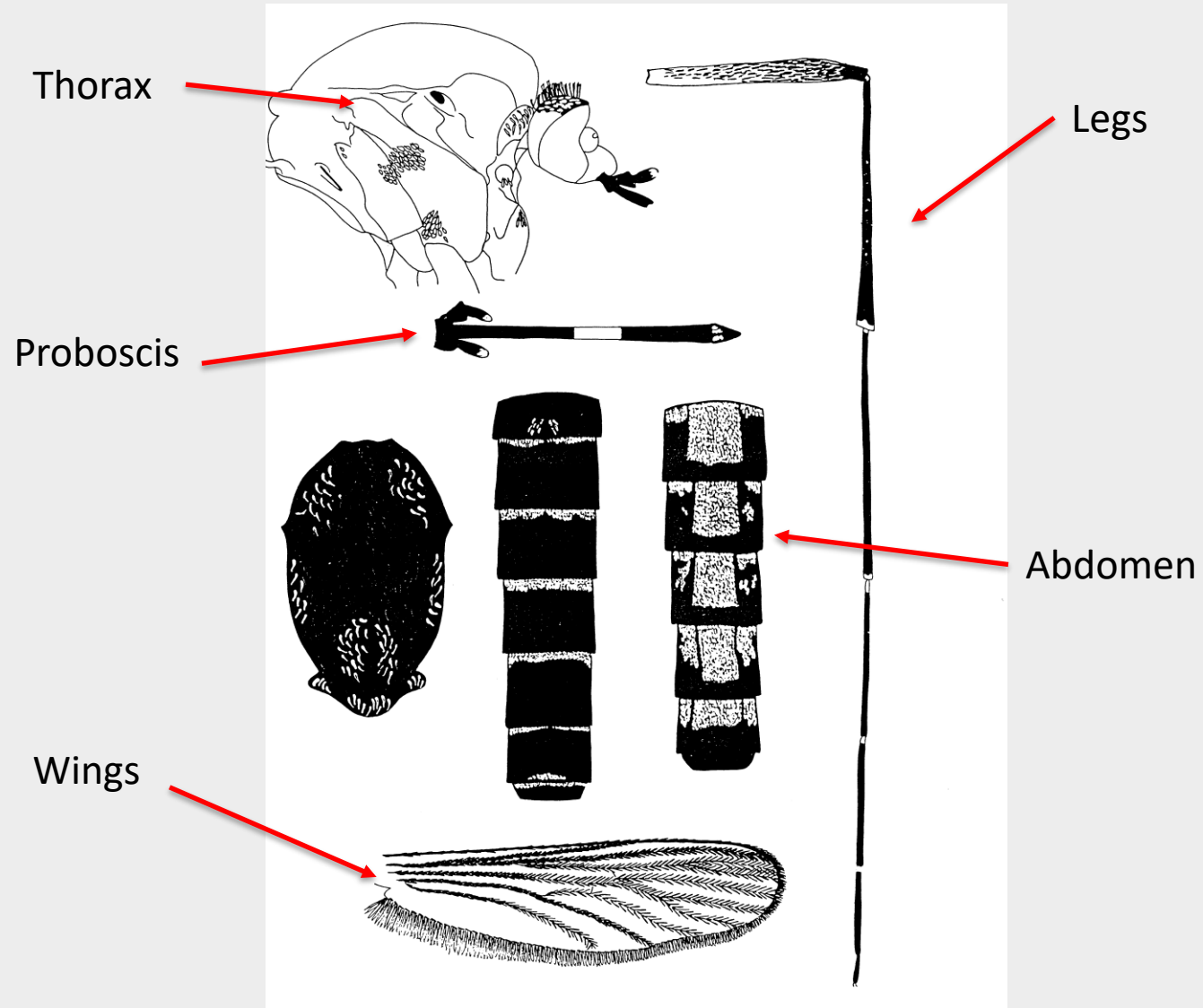
Adjust the **macro** lens



e.g. Auckland Camera Centre



# Key features



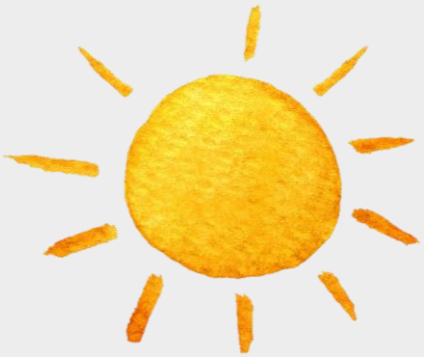
Depth of field



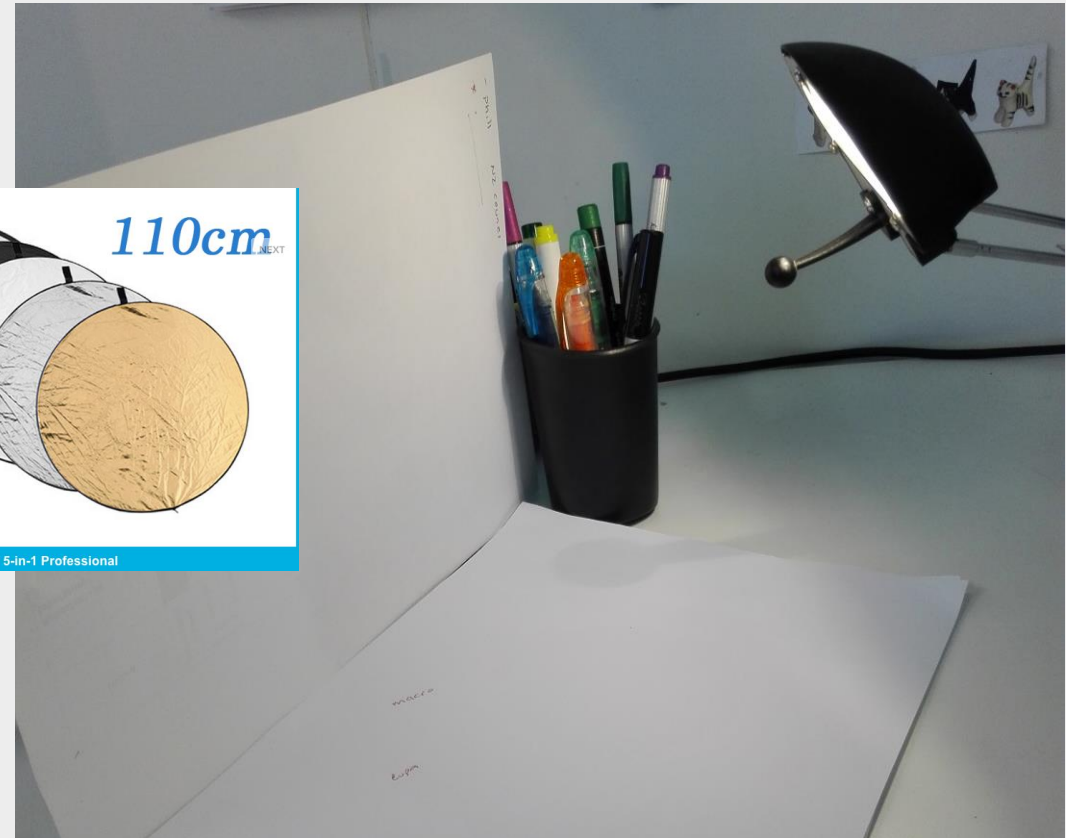
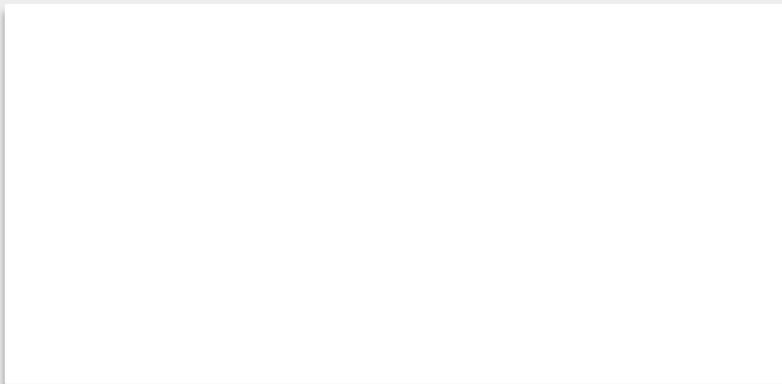


# Taking the picture

- ✓ Natural light (if available) is your best option
- ✓ Find the best illuminated place
- ✓ Indoors increase the light with a reflector



Place the mosquito on white paper



Enhance the artificial light  
Project an additional light against the white paper  
or a reflector

# Phone settings – Avoid using direct flash

- ✓ Increase the light with a diffused flash

Direct flash



Professional diffuser



Home made diffuser



- ✓ Avoid using direct flash



# Keep it still

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- ✓ Find the correct distance for the focus
- ✓ Keep the phone steady while “pressing the button”

**Firm hand**

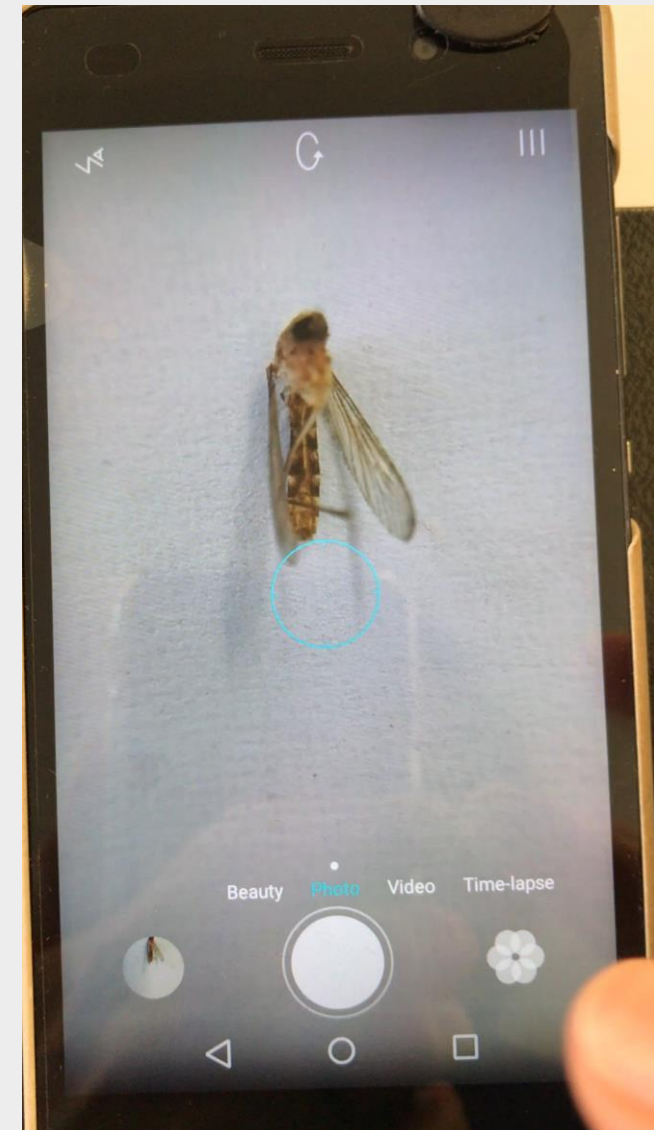
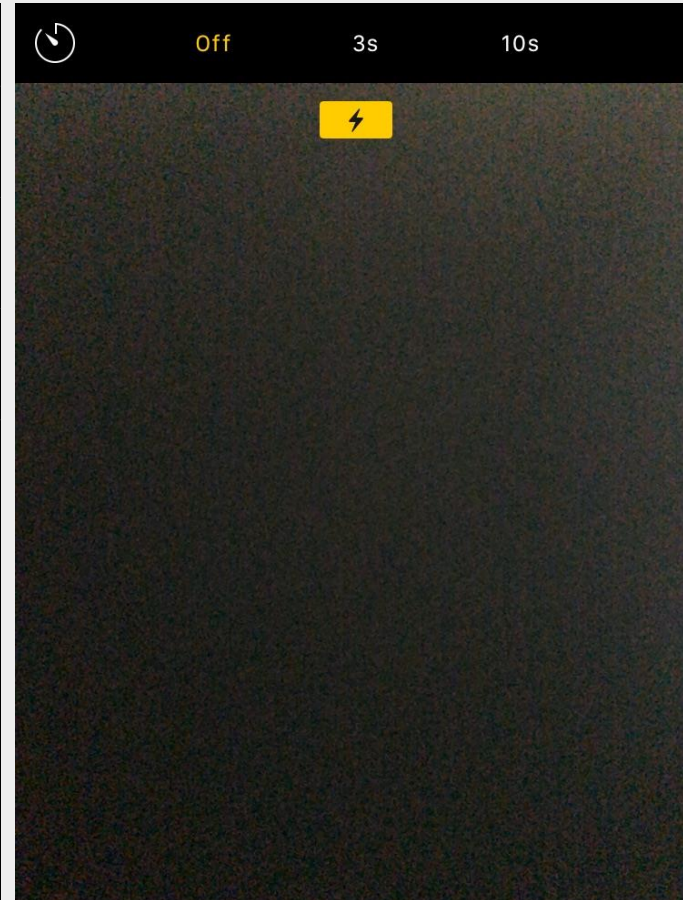
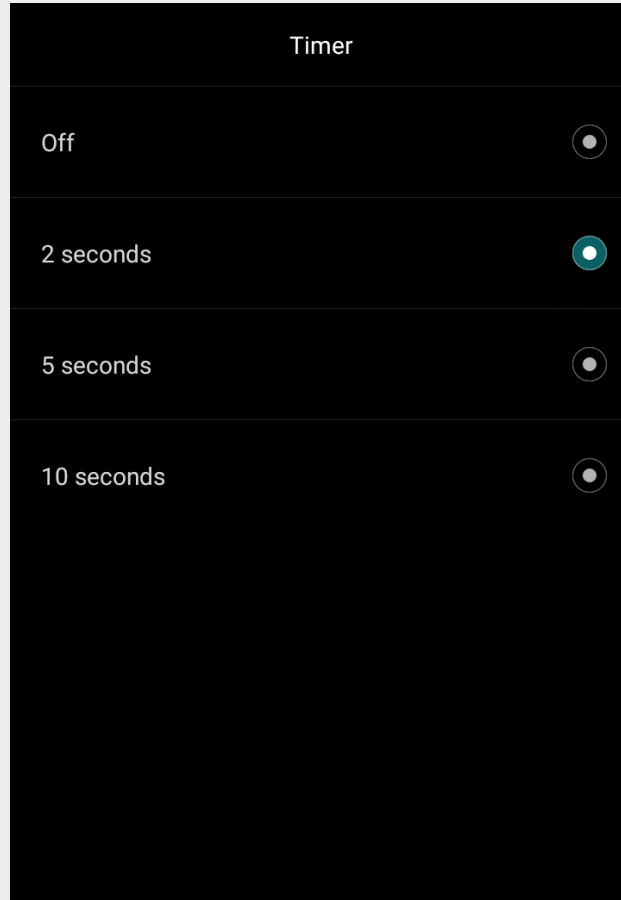


**External help**



# Keep it still

- ✓ Keep the phone steady while “pressing the button”



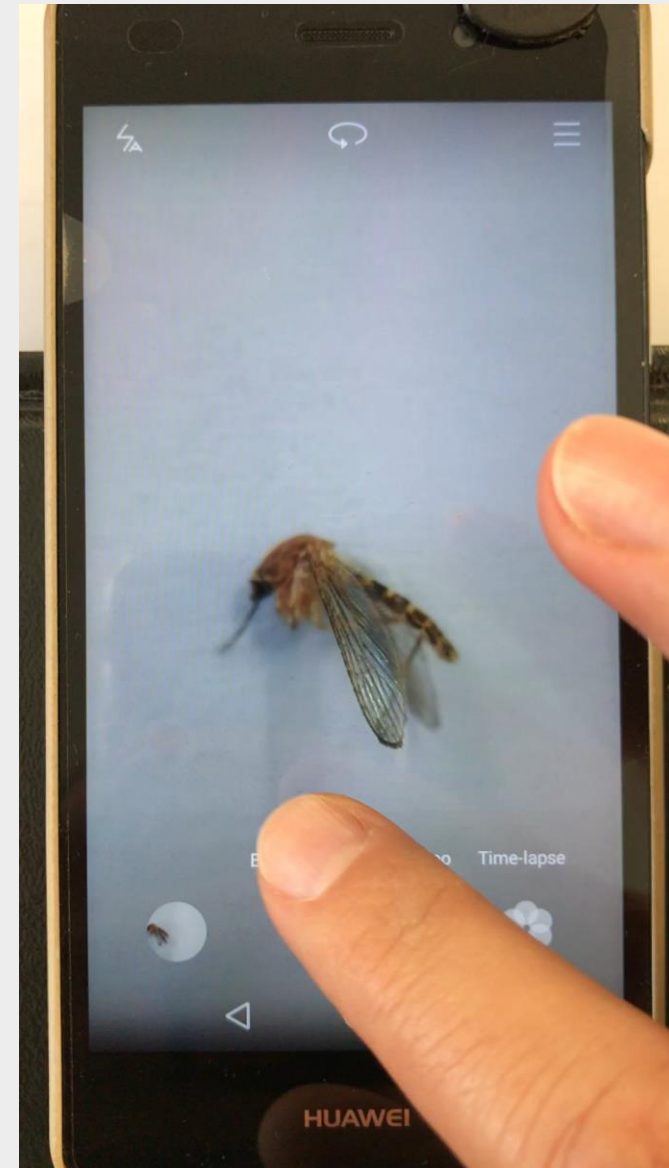
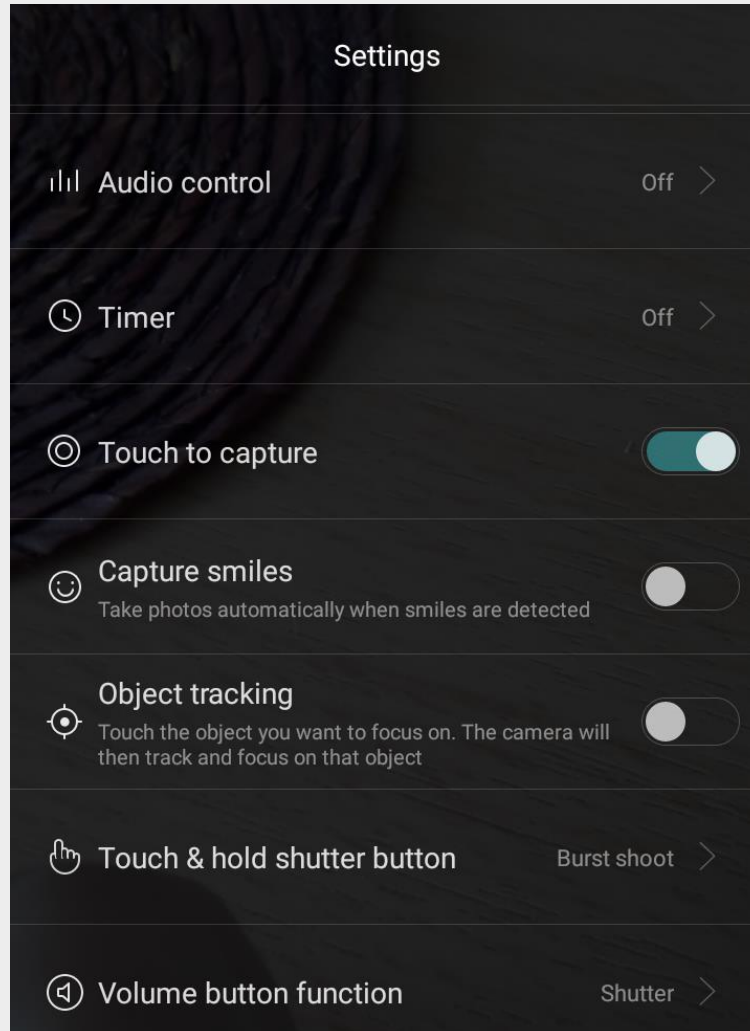
Phone settings    Timer



# Keep it still

- ✓ Keep the phone steady while “pressing the button”

## Phone settings Touch to capture



## OK pictures – no offence

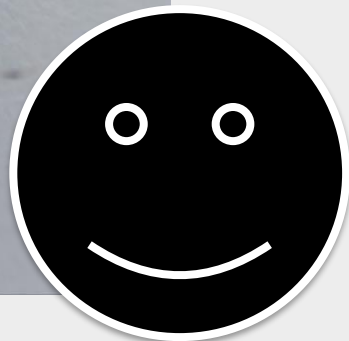
- ✓ Be ready to take more pictures - no offence

Exotic

Unwanted



Send it via  
urgent courier



Local origin



**NO ACTION REQUIRED**

Send it via  
overnight  
courier



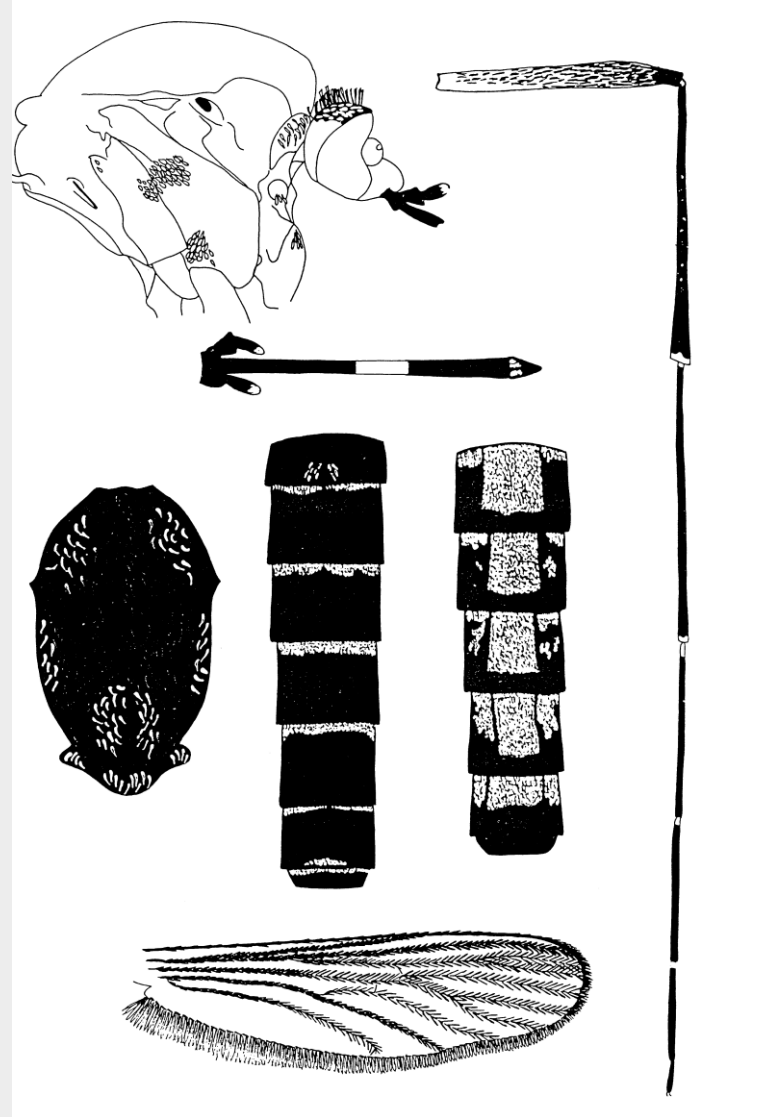
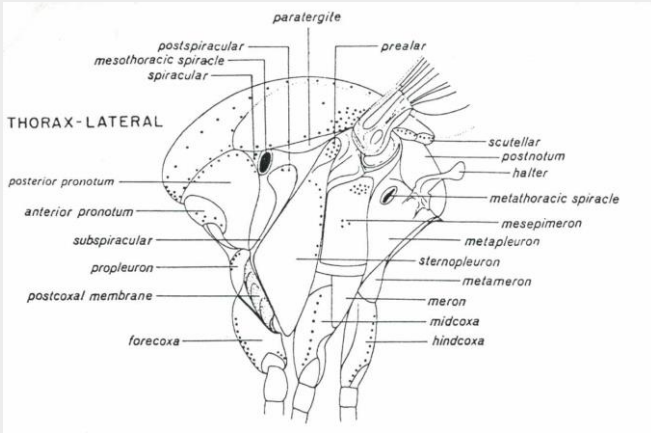
- Could I please have another picture with the focus on the proboscis?

- Could I please have another picture with the focus on the thorax?



# Final ID

- ✓ Send the mosquito to the lab for final ID



There are approx. 3000 species of mosquito described in the world at present



- 
- Kill the suspected mosquito
  - Clip the macro lens on your phone (center it carefully)
  - Place the suspected mosquito on white paper
  - Increase the light with a reflector or diffused flash
  - Find the correct distance for the focus
  - Keep the phone steady while “pressing the button”
  - Send two or three pictures
  - Be ready to take more pictures

