



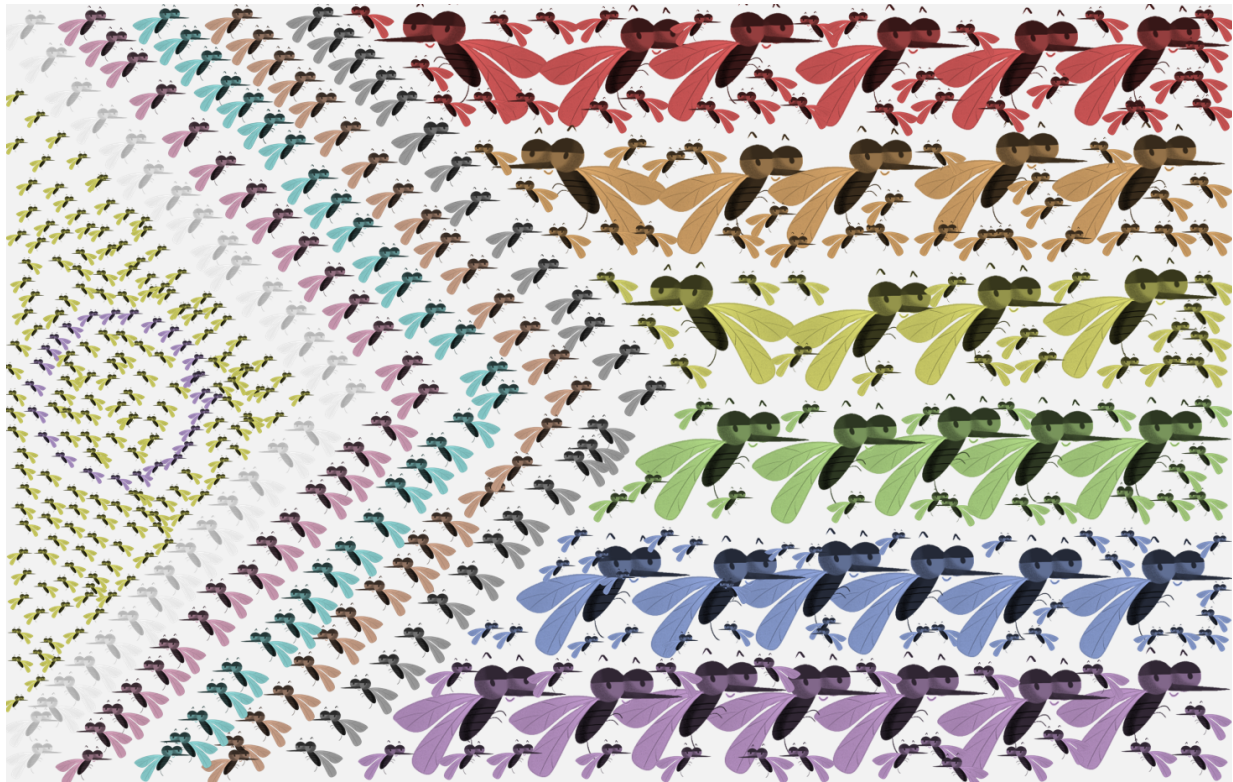
BORDER HEALTH NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2026

NAU MAI, HAERE MAI - WELCOME!

Kia ora koutou katoa,

Winter is now well and truly upon us, bringing frosty mornings, shorter days, and fewer mosquitoes around Aotearoa. We hope you've all had a wonderful Pride Month, and to everyone celebrating, we wish you a happy Pride Day. Stay warm and enjoy this month's update.



In June the mosquito awareness week is observed in the northern hemisphere, and with good reason. While things are quieter here, mosquito-borne diseases continue to make headlines around the world. In Montpellier, France sterile male Asian tiger mosquitoes are now being released to prevent outbreaks of dengue and Chikungunya such the ones seen last year. Meanwhile, in the USA, the number of cases of West Nile virus are higher than those recorded this time of the year in more than 20 years. At the same time the WHO and the Pacific Community released a report describing the current dengue situation in the Pacific.

Finally, scroll down and learn more about our very unique *Aedes antipodeus*, the winter mosquito.

Happy reading!

Biosecurity Specialists



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SURVEILLANCE

During June a total of 1173 routine and enhanced surveillance, and various survey samples were collected by staff from 12 PHUs (Figure 1). The samples included 69 positive larval samples and 63 positive adult samples, leading to a total of 1236 larvae and 136 adults identified over the past month (Table 1).

While *Culex quinquefasciatus* was the dominant larval species last month (1477 specimens), *Aedes notoscriptus* was the dominant larval species this month (651 specimens) and in June 2025 (516 specimens). For adults, *Culex quinquefasciatus* was the dominant species this month and June 2025 (76 and 96 specimens respectively) (Table 1).

In total, seven mosquito species have been collected this month (Table 1), which is the same as last month. Please note that *Culex* sp., *Culex* sp. showing mixed features and *Culex pipiens* complex sp. are not included in this count as they are not considered species *per se*.

Compared to the previous month, the total numbers of larvae and adults have shown a decrease (53% and 63% respectively).

Compared to this same month last year, the total numbers of larvae have shown an increase (17%) while the number of adults has shown a decrease (19%) (Table 1).

Table 1. Adult and larvae sampled by the New Zealand surveillance program during June 2025 & 2026

Species (common name)	Adults		Larvae	
	June 26	June 25	June 26	June 25
<i>Aedes antipodeus</i> (Winter mosquito)	2	-	-	-
<i>Aedes australis</i> (Saltwater mosquito)	1	-	-	11
<i>Aedes notoscriptus</i> (Striped mosquito)	5	2	651	516
<i>Culex</i> sp.	2	37	-	-
<i>Culex pervigilans</i> (Vigilant mosquito)	7	16	112	193
<i>Culex pipiens</i> sp. (Common house mosquito)	17	8	124	6
<i>Culex pipiens</i> complex sp.	9	-	-	-
<i>Culex</i> sp. showing mixed features	16	8	24	30
<i>Culex quinquefasciatus</i> (Southern house mosquito)	76	96	308	301
<i>Opifex fuscus</i> (Rock pool mosquito)	1	-	17	-
TOTAL	136	167	1236	1057

The highest number of larvae sampled this month (all instars included) was obtained in Northland (696 larvae) followed by Canterbury (159 larvae). Considering only third and fourth instars, the highest number of larvae sampled this month was obtained by Northland (396 larvae) followed by Canterbury (150 larvae) (Figure 1).



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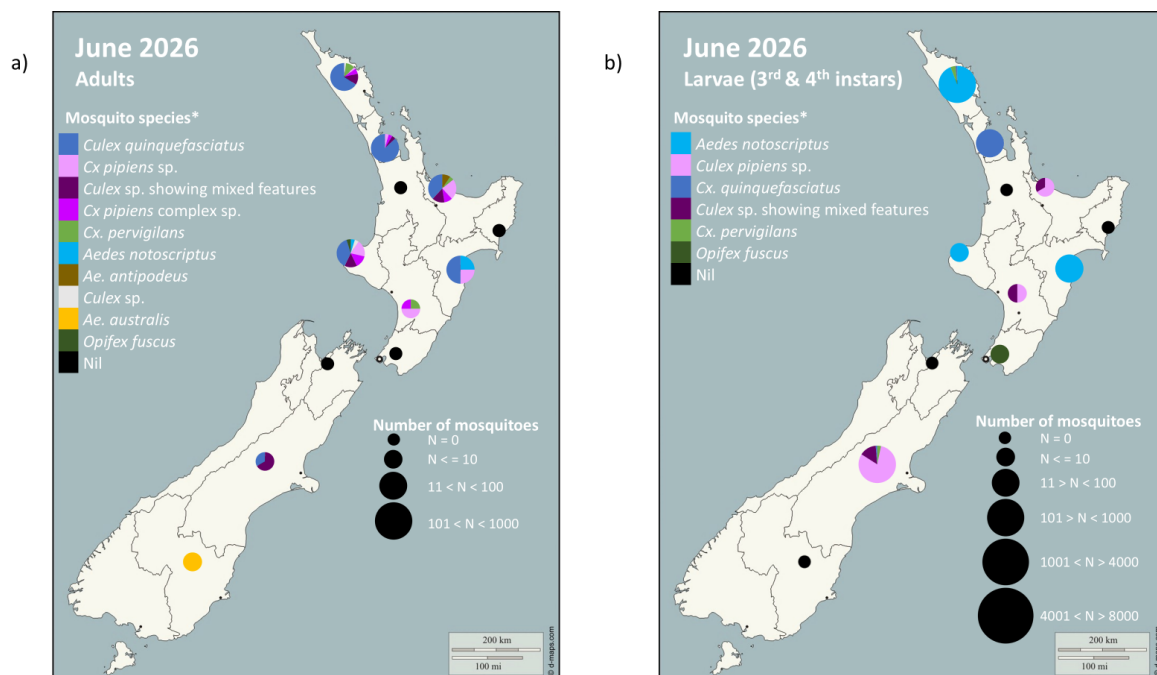


Figure 1. Total mosquito adults (a) and 3rd and 4th instar larvae (b) sampled in New Zealand during June 2026 surveillance period.

Please note that the markers represent the PHUs and not the specific sites where the samples have been taken.

* The mosquito species are listed in order from the most abundant to the least abundant. *Culex* sp. refers to adult or larvae that are damaged or cannot be identified to the species level.

Nil *Culex quinquefasciatus*, a member of the *Culex pipiens* complex, have been recorded for June in Southland (Figures 1 and 2), however in June 2025 one *Culex quinquefasciatus* adult was recorded. In June 2025 and 2026 nil *Aedes notoscriptus* larvae or adults were collected in Southland.

Figure 2 shows the current month 2025-2026 evolution of adult and larval specimens of introduced species collected including *Aedes notoscriptus*, *Aedes australis* and members of the *Culex pipiens* complex.

The largest increase for *Culex quinquefasciatus* adults was seen in the Bay of Plenty with an increase of 7 specimens compared to last year, closely followed by Hawke's Bay with an increase of 6 specimens. The largest decrease was seen in Taranaki with a decrease of 15 adult specimens. For third and fourth-instar *Culex quinquefasciatus* larvae, a large increase was noted in Auckland where the numbers increased by 78. The largest decrease occurred in Bay of Plenty with 47 larval specimens less than June 2025.

The biggest increase *Culex pipiens* sp. larvae was third and fourth-instar occurred in Canterbury with 121 specimens collected compared to none being collected in June 2025. *Culex* sp. showing mixed features were collected in June both this year and last year in Canterbury however.

The largest increase for *Aedes notoscriptus* adults was seen in Hawke's Bay (4 more specimens compared to last year). The largest decrease was seen in Taranaki with a decrease of 1 specimen. For *Aedes notoscriptus* larvae the largest increase was in Northland (55 specimens). Taranaki and Hawke's Bay also saw an increase in the number of *Aedes*



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notoscriptus larvae collected (38 and 33 respectively). The largest decrease was in Auckland (4 specimens).

An *Aedes australis* adult was collected in Southland in June this year. June 2025 also had *Aedes australis* larvae collected in Canterbury at Timaru Port, however no larvae from this species has been collected during June 2026.

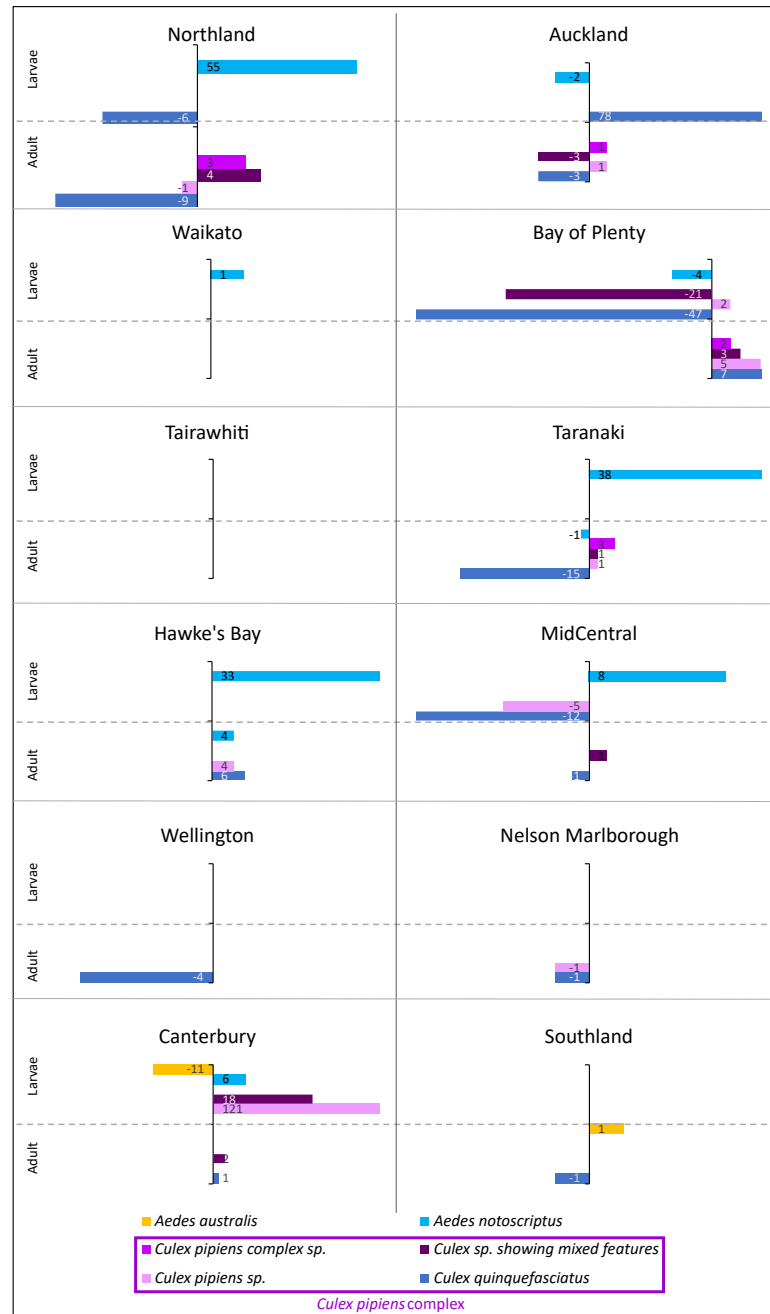


Figure 2. Comparison between the number of introduced mosquito species sampled in each PHU during June 2025 and 2026.

*Please note the different scale is different for each PHU. Species in the purple box are all members of the *Culex pipiens* complex. Larval ID is based on third and fourth instar only for species in the *Culex pipiens* complex while *Aedes notoscriptus* and *Aedes australis* are all larval stages.

Disclaimer: Please note that the identification and reporting processes for adult male and female mosquitoes, as well as first and second-instar larvae of *Culex* species found in New Zealand, were adjusted since the start of 2026. To identify males of the *Culex pipiens* complex to species level, the genitalia must be processed — a



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technique that is highly time-consuming. For this reason, the NZB laboratory identified only a sub-sample of male mosquitoes from each collection to species level. The remaining males in each sample were identified using the palps and classified as either *Culex pipiens* complex sp. or any other endemic *Culex* species (*Culex pervigilans*, *Culex asteliae* or *Culex rotoruae*). Females were placed in the *Culex pipiens* complex when one or more key identification features were missing (for example a wing, abdominal scales, or the abdomen itself). *Culex* larvae in the first or second instar are not always identifiable to species level; when this happens, these are reported as *Culex* sp. The term *Culex* sp. is also used when specimens are too damaged to be identified beyond the genus level.

INCURSIONS AND INTERCEPTIONS

During June, HPOs responded to five suspected interceptions (Table 2), including two locally occurring mosquitoes of possible exotic origin (in purple) and non-mosquitoes (in black).

Table 2. Suspected interceptions during June 2026

Date	Species	Location	Circumstances
04.06.2026	Various non-mosquitoes	YHI New Zealand Ltd, Wiri, Auckland (Transitional Facility)	Found dead in a container of rubber tyres from Sydney, Australia. The insects were in a pile of container sweepings collected by MPI.
09.06.2026	1x Female <i>Culex pipiens</i> showing mixed features (likely a hybrid between <i>Cx pipiens</i> and <i>Cx quinquefasciatus</i>)	Christchurch Airport	Found dead by the international bag arrivals x-ray machine.
19.06.2026	1x Tipulomorpha indet. (Crane fly)	Mitsubishi Motors New Zealand Ltd (Transitional Facility).	Found alive by AP while unloading a container of new car parts from Japan. The ship was the Hansa Freyberg and arrive in NZ the 8th of June, last international port of call was in Sydney, Australia
23.06.2026	1x Male <i>Culex quinquefasciatus</i>	GVI Logistics (Transitional Facility)	Found alive in a consignment of capsicum from Australia/in the inspection room. The cargo was irradiated before arriving in NZ. The consignment arrived by air on the 22 nd and was opened on the 23 rd
24.06.2026	2x Tipulomorpha indet. (Crane fly) 1X <i>Latrodectus hasselti</i> (Redback spider)	Allied Moving Services (Transitional Facilities)	Found dead in a container of personal effects/housewares at wellington transitional facility.



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NEWS ARTICLES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

France is releasing millions of sterile mosquitoes



Click on the image above to watch the video

The tiger mosquito, known scientifically as *Aedes albopictus*, can transmit dengue, Zika and chikungunya. First detected in mainland France in 2004, it is now present across most of the country. Public health authorities recorded an unprecedented 809 locally transmitted cases of chikungunya and 30 locally transmitted cases of dengue in France in 2025. The same year also saw 2,398 imported chikungunya cases and 81 local transmission clusters. [Read more here.](#)

Europe's 2026 mosquito season has opened, and the first fortnight of June moved the front line north

Europe's 2026 mosquito-borne disease season is open, and the first fortnight of June moved the front line north. West Nile virus has been found circulating in Berlin's house mosquitoes. Italy recorded an early local case near Florence. In France, the tiger-mosquito response has become a daily municipal beat. The pattern is consistent across all three: earlier, and further north, than the models assumed. Scroll down this article to find the original sources. [Rad more.](#)

West Nile virus cases highest for this time of year in more than 20 years; Maricopa County, Arizona reports the most

Last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said in a statement that the West Nile virus (WNV) season in the United States is having its earliest start in 22 years. At least 48 cases have been reported as of June 30, 2026: 38 have been cases of severe neuroinvasive disease. Since 2004, an average of 10 human disease cases has been reported to CDC by the end of June. [Read more.](#)



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Dengue in the Pacific: Multicountry Situation (As of 02 July 2026)

DENGUE IN THE PACIFIC: MULTICOUNTRY SITUATION

As of 02 July 2026



Between 1 January 2026 and 2 July 2026, a total of 4 351 dengue confirmed cases, 172 hospitalisations and 3 deaths have been reported across the Pacific. In 2026 dengue outbreaks were officially declared in New Caledonia, Tonga and Shefa province Vanuatu. The most affected countries and areas in 2026 include: Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Samoa, and New Caledonia. These account for 94% of confirmed cases. Dengue serotype-1 (DENV-1) and serotype-2 (DENV-2) are currently in circulation. Cook Islands declared the end of its outbreak on 25 May 2026. As of 2 July 2026: Dengue outbreak is ongoing in Shefa province, Vanuatu. Confirmation of the serotype is pending. o Low levels of transmission are observed in American Samoa, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Samoa, and Tonga. Wallis and Futuna is under monitoring, as community transmission has recently been reported in Wallis. [Click here to learn more and to download the full report.](#)

How to repel mosquitoes and treat their bites



Click on the image above to watch the video.



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KNOW YOUR MOSQUITO



Photography by © Danilo Hegg - Southern Alps Photography

Aedes antipodeus The winter mosquito



Found: Throughout New Zealand found in native bush, the country side and high altitudes.



Active: Year-round, with increased activity in cooler "winter" months (hence its name).



Feeds: Reported as a nuisance biter, these mosquitoes will bite mainly at night, indoors and out.



Vectors: Shown to be a competent laboratory vector for Barmah Forest virus, Ross River virus, and Dengue Fever virus. **Not** a vector for human diseases in New Zealand.



Breeding: Lay desiccation resistant eggs in slime or mud at the edge of shaded temporary ground pools, reservoirs, swamps, and semi flooded streams.

RISK MAPS

[Dengue Map](#) – Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

[Zika Map](#) – Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

[Malaria](#) – Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

[Malaria](#) – World Health Organisation

DISEASE OUTBREAKS

To find out where the latest disease outbreaks have occurred visit:

[Epidemic and emerging disease alerts in the Pacific region](#) - Produced by the Pacific Community (SPC) for the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN).

[Disease Outbreak News](#) - World Health Organization.

[Communicable disease Dashboards](#) - The New Zealand Institute for Public Health and Forensic Science (PHF Science) - formerly named the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR).

[Communicable disease threats report](#) - European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control