



BORDER HEALTH NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2011

WELCOME!

It seems we are finally managing to drag ourselves out of a long winter and are now well and truly heading towards the warmer spring weather. But many of you may have noticed the distinct lack of sunlight hours, despite being well into daylight savings and the days longer and longer. And yet others still may have noticed that spring has arrived with an attitude in that it is dealing out high winds, occasional very large rain events, or conversely, no rain at all.

Much of the North Island, especially the north and west, experienced higher than average rainfall with average to slightly higher temperatures. And the northern South Island, Canterbury and Central Otago also had to deal with more than double the normal rainfall for this time of year. In some areas rainfall events were great enough to cause localised surface flooding. At the opposite end of this scale was Gisborne and the east coast of the North Island where less than half of normal rainfall occurred and the ground continues to be quite deficient in moisture.

So although we are being dealt some less than comfortable sampling conditions we should start to see the usual increase in mosquito numbers with more mild temperatures and better moisture levels. However, if NIWAs predictions are correct, this increased rain won't last the season so there is the possibility that in some areas although temperatures are conducive to fast mosquito breeding, the habitat simply may not be available. It should be noted though that when it is warm, many species can make very efficient use of very small amounts of water. So it will be well worth while keeping a close watch in all areas.

If you would like to see NIWAs full outlook for your area you will find it here:

<http://www.niwa.co.nz/node/102848>

INCURSIONS/INTERCEPTIONS

There were no incursions in October and no responses initiated.

SAMPLES

During September, 462 samples were collected by staff from 11 District Health Boards, with 56 positive. Sampling numbers were well up on last month which was to be expected as the season warms up and also reflects better reporting of negative samples. Sample numbers were similar to those at this point last year. The specimens received were:

Species	Adults	Larvae
NZ Mozzies		
<i>Aedes antipodeus</i>	2	0
<i>Ae. notoscriptus</i>	0	1098
<i>Ae. australis</i>	0	3
<i>Culex pervigilans</i>	2	507
<i>Cx. quinquefasciatus</i>	1	83
<i>Opifex fuscus</i>		
Exotics	0	0
TOTAL MOSQUITOES	5	1691

WEBSITE

Public Health nuisance pest enquiries are increasing as the weather improves, mosquitoes are definitely making their presence known in backyards! Mosquitoes, midge, dust mites and nits in particular continue to be of most interest, and we are continually adding more information and items as enquiries from the public and our clients come in. New products are available including Aquatain for mosquito control, the Trapple trap for fruit flies and we've now got Tanglefoot to make sticky traps!

Newsletters and reports are all able to be downloaded from the website and if you find something you think should be listed, we'd love to hear from you.



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PHS and Government departments commercial clients are able to use the purchase order option for any supplies that are required, this is followed up with an invoice direct to you. Please ensure you include an order number for referencing in the invoice. If a product is listed as please enquire, there are generally restrictions on its sale. We hope you are finding this on-line service useful and are always happy to address any enquiries or matters you may wish to discuss. Please feel free to contact us through the website, or email us directly at enquiries@smsl.co.nz or taxonomy@nzbiosecure.net.nz

government had undertaken a massive vaccination drive against the disease.

TICK-BORNE ENCEPHALITIS - GERMANY

A ProMED-mail post
<<http://www.promedmail.org>>
ProMED-mail is a program of the International Society for Infectious Diseases
<<http://www.isid.org>>

Date: Wed 02 Nov 2011
From: Martin Haditsch <leonding@travelmed.at>

MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES

JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS AND OTHER - INDIA (31):
UTTAR PRADESH

A ProMED-mail post
<<http://www.promedmail.org>>
ProMED-mail is a program of the International Society for Infectious Diseases
<<http://www.isid.org>>

[1] Uttar Pradesh
Date: Mon 31 Oct 2011
Source: News 24 [edited]
<<http://www.news24online.com/ViewDetails.aspx?NewsID=35832>>

In the last 2 months, 40 children have died due to encephalitis in this district [Mahrajanj], health officials said here today [31 Oct 2011].

"Since September 2011, 230 encephalitis patients were admitted for treatment, of which 40 children died, while 55 children are still being treated in the Nehru Chikitsalya of BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur. The rest have been discharged," Additional Director, Health, Devaker Prasad said.

Since January 2011, 183 cases of Japanese encephalitis [virus infection] have come to light, while the rest were that of viral encephalitis caused by an unknown virus, he said. He said the state

In addition to the postings on tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) in Sweden and Austria [see below], I would also like to notify you about the proven TBE figures for Germany as actually posted by the RKI (Robert Koch Institute). Please be aware that the otification process takes up to weeks (depending on the region), so we already know that the real number is higher, and additional cases will be posted in the near future.

Actually, the RKI posts 369 cases (as compared to 260 in the whole year of 2010), which is a substantial increase. As with the other countries, conditions in winter 2010/11, the weather in 2011 (starting with a warm spring, leading to a moist summer and a beautiful warm fall), as well as an increase of the tick population and personal behaviour (increase of outdoor activities) in combination with a still low vaccination rate (in some endemic areas of Germany not more than 30 percent) are likely to have contributed to this increase in clinical cases.

By the way -- due to an obviously general increase in cases in 2011 I would like to sensitize ProMED-mail readers to TBE, not only in "standard tourists" visiting the endemic areas of Europe and Asia, but also those who participated in "event tourism" in general, and those participating in or visiting [in Germany] the Women's Soccer World Championship 2011 in particular. If somebody gets involved with a person who is suffering from neurological disorders after a febrile episode and



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this type of travel/visit, he/she is more than welcome to touch base with me.

Basically, I'm convinced there are (far more) cases out there, and we only detect the "tip of the iceberg."

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Photo of the Month

This month's photo is of a mosquito being shot down by a Photonic Fence Laser System. A new development in technology from Intellectual Ventures Lab looking at computerised detection and laser elimination of mosquitoes mid flight.



Photo courtesy of Intellectual Ventures Lab. Laser. 2010.
3 Nov 2011
<http://intellectualventureslab.com/?page_id=563>