



NEW ZEALAND BioSECURE

Entomology Laboratory



Newsletter - October 2010

Hello again. I hope you are all well underway with your mosquito surveillance following the recent spates of fine weather. Specimen numbers arriving at the laboratory are on the increase and keeping the entomologists busy once again.

SAMPLES

During October, a total of 640 samples were collected by staff from 12 public health services, with 57 positive. Sampling numbers were up on last month and up slightly on this time last year. The specimens received were as follows:

Species	Adults	Larvae
<i>Aedes antipodeus</i>	0	51
<i>Ae. australis</i>	0	93
<i>Ae. notoscriptus</i>	0	556
<i>Culex pervigilans</i>	1	387
Exotics		
<i>Aedes aegypti</i>	0	12
TOTAL	1	1100

INCURSIONS/INTERCEPTIONS

There were two mosquito related callouts during October with *Aedes aegypti* larvae and pupa and 1 unidentified adult being found at the Ports of Auckland in used tyres on a fishing ship ex Papua New Guinea on the 8th and a non-mosquito found alive in a container at a Masterton devanning site on the 27th.

WEBSITE

The new website is working well, a huge thanks to those PHS staff who have adopted the on-line purchase option for your lab supplies. We appreciate willingness to try something new and hope you find this service to your liking. Don't forget PHS's should use the purchase order option to ensure an invoice is generated. Have a look, changes and updates occur almost weekly as new items and information is added. <http://www.smsl.co.nz/> . We are always looking for products for sale or suggestions for enhancing our service promotion, so if you have any suggestions please forward them through: enquiries@smsl.co.nz or taxonomy@nzbiosecure.net.nz

MINISTRY OF HEALTH'S ADVANCED MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE WORKSHOP

The annual workshop for public health staff involved in border health surveillance activities was again conducted at Snell's Beach, Salty Dog Inn over three days from 19 to 21 October. This year it was attended by 12 students representing ten District Health Boards.

The general consensus of opinion from the Directing Staff was all students that presented themselves for this workshop were motivated and enthusiastic about the training that was provided and the results of the internal course validation supported that assumption. Some of the comments received from the students have provided the training designers with good feedback and I believe we could, with little difficulty incorporate the minor changes necessary to facilitate the desired response.

I was very pleased to see the substantial changes made this year to the field content of this workshop received unanimous approval, although staff have already discussed changes that could be made to provide further improvement. The balance between theory and practice learning seems to have been achieved but I feel we could add further practical application that would certainly assist PHU staff in interception response activities.

Expert instruction was provided by entomologists Mark Disbury and Darryl McGinn of Mosquito Consulting Services (NZ) Ltd with directing staff assistance from Steve Hunn RNZAF and SMS Ltd.

There were good comments received both via validation and through the onsite discussions had with students on the training and advice they received. Many commented favourably on the standard of accommodation and meals and



NEW ZEALAND BIOSECURE

Entomology Laboratory



the Tudor Room received special mention from first time visitors as a most suitable workshop facility.

In summary, the good results from the final written assessment, the remarks from the student validation forms and the feedback received from networking discussions amongst students and Directing Staff lead me to believe that the 2010 Advanced Mosquito Surveillance Workshop was successful.

Bryn Gradwell
Course Manager
SMS New Zealand BioSecure

be reported, which may be the situation for chikungunya virus infections as well. - Mod.TY]



Map ex
<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:LocationofDelhi.PNG>

MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES

CHIKUNGUNYA AND DENGUE - INDIA (DELHI)

Source: Prensa Latina [in Spanish, trans. Corr.SB edited] 19 Oct 2010 reported on ProMED Mail 20 Oct 2010

At least 33 cases of chikungunya, a mosquito-borne virus, were reported today [19 Oct 2010] in the Indian capital [Delhi], whose health authorities already have their hands full with an outbreak of dengue. According to the chairman of the Delhi Public Health Committee, VK Monga, all patients identified so far, except one, are people who have not left the city, so we could be in the presence of local transmission of the virus.

Last year [2009] only 12 cases of chikungunya were found in Delhi, and all were individuals who had travelled to Kerala and other southern states of India which have a high incidence of chikungunya, Monga said, quoted on Tuesday [19 Oct 2010] by the local media.

He also said that the capital's health authorities to begin to educate people about the characteristics of the virus, whose symptoms are similar to those of dengue fever, another disease that had by yesterday [18 Oct 2010] infected 4614 people in the Indian capital.

[Doubtless significantly underreported, as cases attended in private clinics are not required to

Chikungunya was 1st isolated in 1953, in Tanzania, and since then has appeared repeatedly in parts of Africa and Southeast Asia. It has also been reported in some Indian Ocean islands. The disease, whose symptoms are headache and joint pain, fever, nausea, vomiting and dizziness, is transmitted to humans by mosquitoes of the genus *Aedes* (*aegypti*, *albopictus* and *polynesiensis*). Monkeys and other wild animals that abound in the Indian capital are natural reservoirs of chikungunya [virus].

SANDFLY-BORNE DISEASES

LEISHMANIASIS - AFGHANISTAN

Source: Yahoo [edited] 15 Oct 2010, reported on ProMED Mail 17 Oct 2010

An outbreak of a leishmaniasis caused [transmitted] by sand fly bites that leaves disfiguring skin sores has hit Afghanistan, with tens of thousands of people infected, health officials said on Friday [15 Oct 2010].

Cutaneous leishmaniasis is a parasitic disease transmitted by the female phlebotomine sand



NEW ZEALAND BIOSECURE

Entomology Laboratory



fly. Treatable with medication and not life-threatening, cutaneous leishmaniasis can leave severe scars on the bodies of victims.

The disease threatens 13 million people in Afghanistan, the World Health Organization (WHO) said, and many impoverished Afghan victims can't afford the medication to treat it.

In Kabul -- described by WHO as "the world capital of cutaneous leishmaniasis" -- the number of cases jumped from an estimated 17 000 a year in the early 2000s to 65 000 in 2009, WHO said.

Most victims are women and children. WHO said women and children are more vulnerable because they mostly live indoors at night, where the sand flies prefer to bite, and are therefore more susceptible than men who are generally outside the home.

Peter Graaff, WHO representative to Afghanistan, told The Associated Press on Friday that the stigma and shame attached to the disfiguring disease results in underreporting, and the number of infected people is likely much higher. "This number is likely to be the tip of the iceberg as cases are grossly underreported," said Graaff. An outbreak has occurred in a small village in western Herat province's Kohsan district with 63 people infected since August [2010], Graaff said. The cause of the outbreak was unknown and a WHO team has been dispatched to investigate, he said.

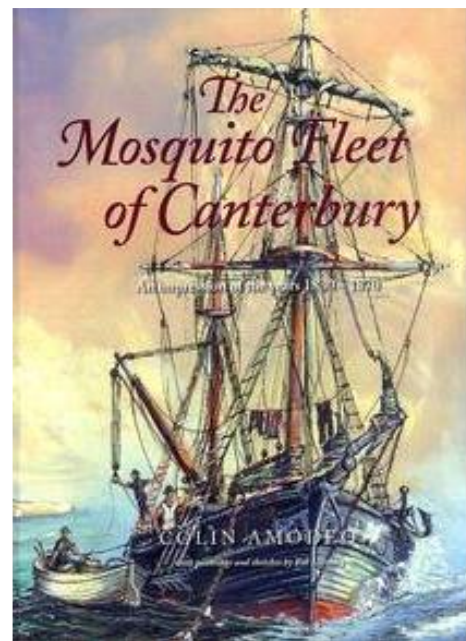
The sand flies proliferate from June to September. They thrive in unsanitary conditions such as piles of garbage and debris, though bed nets offer protection from their bites. As the disfiguring sores grow larger, many suffer social stigmatization.

"The high cost of treatment makes it difficult to integrate anti-Leishmaniasis drugs," said Dr Suraya Dalil, acting minister of public health. "I

urge donors to take this cause seriously, as it causes unnecessary suffering amongst a large number of Afghans."

According to WHO as many as 12 million people are infected worldwide with about 1 million to 2 million new cases annually.

Mozzie Photo of the Month



The Mosquito Fleet of Canterbury : An Impression of the Years 1830-1870

Colin Amodeo & Bill Huntley (Paintings & Sketches). Published by Caxton Press.

The Mosquito Fleet Of Canterbury records an almost forgotten aspect of Canterbury history - the role of sea transport in the development of the province.

It explores the range of shipping and shipbuilding activity in early Canterbury and includes ship specifications, chronologies, fleet lists and shipping companies while Bill Huntley's sketches and paintings bring a strongly visual dimension to the text.