

Short communication: **First record of *Aedes albopictus* in Gabon, Central Africa**

Andreas Krueger and Ralf M. Hagen

Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Hamburg, Germany

Summary

The Asian tiger mosquito *Aedes albopictus* is an important arbovirus vector. Originating in East Asia, the species has been introduced to the Americas, the Indo-Pacific and Australasian regions as well as Europe and Africa, mostly during the past 30 years and probably by transportation in used tires. We report *Ae. albopictus* for the first time from Gabon (Libreville). In addition, the yellow fever mosquito *Ae. aegypti* ssp. *formosus* and 16 other culicid species were detected throughout the city, four of which are also new records for Gabon.

keywords *Aedes albopictus*, *Ae. aegypti*, invasive species, BG-Sentinel, Gabon, Africa

(...) During the short rainy season in November 2006 vector collections were carried out at several locations in Libreville in conjunction with the 2006 EUFOR RD CONGO (European Union Force République démocratique du Congo) mission, using CDC miniature light traps and a BG-Sentinel trap (BioGents GmbH, Regensburg, Germany; Kröckel et al. 2006) as well as self-made ovitraps at sites near the international airport in the north (Tahiti) and near the harbour in the south of the city (Owendo). The locations were chosen with respect to proximity to military objects, and traps (CDC and BG traps always combined) were set outdoors in distances of about 1 m to each other and, if possible, where shelter from wind and rain was available. For each collection, the adult traps were operated from around 4:00–6:00 pm (just before sunset) to 9:00–10:00 am the next morning. The ovitraps were left for 4–6 days. (...)

(...) In terms of potential surveillance it seems notable that all *Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* specimens were caught with the BG-Sentinel (which is in fact designed to attract *Aedes aegypti*; Kröckel et al. 2006), but without the light traps. Apart from surveillance of used tires the BG-Sentinel therefore seems to be an effective supplementation. (...)

Corresponding Author Andreas Krueger, Bundeswehr-FB Tropenmedizin, Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Bernhard-Nocht-Str. 74, 20359 Hamburg, Germany. Tel.: +49-40-6947-2830; Fax: +49-40-6947-2859; E-mail: k r u e g e r @ b n i - h a m b u r g . d e