

A STUDY OF THE VECTORS OF DENGUE HAEMORRHAGIC FEVER (D. H. F.) IN THE CITY OF COLOMBO

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So far only sporadic cases of D.H.F. have been reported in Sri Lanka. However it is the view of the World Health Organization that Sri Lanka is a 'silent area', and the population may be at a risk of a large outbreak of D.H.F. Surveillance of the vectors of D.H.F. *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* was therefore commenced in December 1977 in all 47 municipal wards of the City of Colombo. 3-4 surveys per year have been done upto date.

The Breteau index was employed to assess vector density. A Breteau index of over 100 is considered to be significant.

During the years 1977-1980 16 wards showed indices over 100. At different times, an index of over 400, 300, 200 and 100 were observed in 2 wards, 4 wards, 7 wards and 13 wards respectively. Hunupitiya had consistently high indices from 1977 to 1980; New Bazaar from 1977 to 1979, and Aluthkade East in 1978 and 1979.

In contrast with the findings of surveys concluded from 1977-1979, the proportion of wards showing high indices in 1980 was low. In the survey concluded in September 1980, not a single ward had an index of over 100.