

**A STUDY OF THE ROLE OF DIFFERENT INDIGENOUS ANOPHELINE
SPECIES IN THE TRANSMISSION OF HUMAN
MALARIA IN SRI LANKA**

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Among 23 species of anophelines recorded in Sri Lanka, only *Anopheles culicifacies* has so far been established as a vector of human malaria. The role of other anopheline species had not been sufficiently investigated. This study attempts to determine the vectorial status and competence of these species.

Preliminary observations have shown that 10 out of 11 species examined were able to support the sporogonic development of *Plasmodium vivax* up to sporozoite stage when infected from human parasite carriers. In addition, up to now, natural salivary gland infections with *Plasmodium* (sporozoites) were found in wild populations of 03 among the 10 anopheline species. These natural infections were detected in areas of active transmission of human malaria. The identity of these natural infections needs to be further clarified due to the prevalence of simian malarias in the country. However, in view of the fact that sporogonic development has been successfully completed in these species, it is possible that these species may already be or have the potential to transmit human malaria in the country. Study of the bionomics of these species have been done with a view to elucidating other factors which influence transmission potential of these species.

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