OVIPOSITION ACTIVITY AND VERTICAL STRATIFICATION OF MOSQUITO SPECIES IN JAFFNA PENINSULA

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The breeding habits of mosquitoes in Jaffna peninsula were studied by means of bamboo traps by Antony and Rajendram (1987) who reported oviposition by Aedes (Stegomyia) aegypti (Linnaeus), Aedes (Stegomyia) albopictus (Skuse) and Aedes (Stegomyia) novalbopictus barraud. The present paper is an attempt at vertical ecological stratification of the different mosquito species in Jaffna peninsula, based on their oviposition activity in bamboo traps at different levels -- ground level, 3.5 m and 7.0 m.

A total of 15 collections from 9 traps hung from 3 trees (135 trap collections) were made at the University of Jaffna. Thirunelvely, and the identifications carried out based on the characteristics of eggs, immatures and adults.

Two Aedes species -- Ae. aegypti and Ae. albopictus oviposited bamboo traps at all three levels. However significantly more eggs were laid at ground level than at either 3.5 m or 7.0 m by both species (ANOVA, F 0.05). Culex quinquefasciatus Say oviposited in traps at ground level only.

Preference for oviposition at ground level has been reported in Ae. albopictus (Amerasinghe and Alagoda 1984) and in Cx. quinquefasciatus (soman 1977).

References:

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