

**A-28: Field analysis of *Anopheles culicifacies* Giles complex for the presence of sibling species A**

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*Anopheles culicifacies* is the best known vector of malaria in Sri Lanka. In India, *An. culicifacies* exists as a complex of four sibling species designated A, B, C and D. On the basis of the results of a limited cytogenetical study, *An. culicifacies* in Sri Lanka is considered to be sibling species B. However, the use of DNA probes for precise identification of sibling species status of mosquito field samples is far superior to cytogenetic technique, since each individual mosquito can be analysed.

We have developed three DNA probes (Rep 340, Rep 217, Rep 121) which distinguish sibling species A from B and C. In this preliminary study, 910 wild *An. culicifacies* mosquitoes from four areas of North Western Province : Gomadiyagala (n = 364), Halmillawa (n = 273), Elvitiya (n = 182) and Polgahawela (n = 91) were analysed using the above DNA probes. No evidence for the presence of sibling species A was observed during this investigation.