A-30: Breeding preference of *Anopheles culicifacies* in Galketiyagama area in Kurunegala District

T A Abhayawardana
(Anti-Malaria Campaign, Narahenpita, Colombo 5)

An.culicifacies is the major vector of malaria in Sri Lanka. Knowledge on the breeding preference of this species will be useful for malaria control, particularly in vector control by larviciding.

Monthly collection of anopheline larvae were made from May 1990 to June 1991 from all types of breeding places available in the area. Two collections were made in each month using standard size aluminium ladles (200 ml). Fixed number of dips were taken from different permanent breeding places such as river margins, stream margins, wells, tanks and paddy fields. Number of dips taken from temporary water bodies such as rain water pools depended on the size and volume of water.

A total of 21,297 anopheline larvae were collected in 29,495 dips taken from these water sources.

The prominent breeding places for anophelines in the study area were river margins (1.6 per dip), paddy fields (0.66 per dip), stream margin (0.62 per dip), tanks (0.3 per dip), rain water pools (0.2 per dip) and wells (0.18 per dip).

79% of total anopheline larvae identified from river margins, 40% from wells, 39% from tanks, 37% from stream margins and 1% from paddy fields were *An.culicifacies*. However, breeding of *An.culicifacies* in wells, tanks and paddy fields occurred only, when rivers and streams were not suitable for breeding.

Slow running river and streams provided the major breeding grounds for *An. culicifacies*.