

D-29: Larval breeding habits of dengue-vector *Aedes* spp. in Attidiya area

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Following an outbreak of dengue in several parts of Sri Lanka, a study of larvae of the vector *Aedes* spp. was conducted during February 1997 in the Attidiya area. In this locality, 155 houses were selected out of 1500 houses using a random table of numbers. Collections and observations on *Aedes* larvae were carried out and *Aedes*

breeding was noted in potable as well as nonpotable containers both indoors and outdoors.

Among the container types, tyres [Breeding Preference Ratio (BPR)=1.611] were the most preferred containers for *Aedes* breeding. *Aedes* spp. were also found breeding in mud pots of all types, coconut shells, blocked gutters and other miscellaneous containers. The Larval House Index (LHI= 66.7) was higher than the container index (CI=37.93). The Breteau Index (BI= 51.53) indicated that more than half of the searched houses supplied breeding sites for *Aedes* larvae. Observations during the survey period revealed that *Aedes* larval prevalence was low in good residential areas with modern facilities while it was high in squatter settlements. Part of the Bellanwillia-Attidiya marsh was also included in the survey and it was observed that the miscellaneous containers thrown into the marsh were a rich source of *Aedes* larval breeding.