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An entomological assessment of transmission of *Wuchereria bancrofti* in selected localities of the Gampaha district

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Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) is the leading cause of lymphoedema worldwide, affecting an estimated 120 million people. Gampaha, which is outside the filarial belt in Sri Lanka, has been found to have higher endemicity of filariasis and was included in the National Filariasis Control Program. Entomological surveys are critical for evaluation of filarial transmission in any endemic area. This study was carried out to determine the current status regarding the transmission of *Wuchereria bancrofti* in the Gampaha district. Fifteen study sites were selected in 5 MOH areas in the Gampaha District, based on data obtained from the regional Anti-Filariasis Campaign (AFC) office. Mosquito collections were carried out in 20 households in each site. Conventional dissection and microscopic examination were used for detecting filarial parasites in mosquitoes. The results indicated that 73.33% (11/15) sites were infested with *Culex quinquefasciatus* mosquitoes positive for *W. bancrofti*. An infection rate of 2.22% (61/2740) was observed among the mosquitoes caught from the households. A mean larval (L1) density of 19.65 per positive mosquito was observed. The study confirmed that active transmission of *Wuchereria bancrofti* is currently taking place in the Gampaha district. Therefore, control programs to interrupt transmission need to be continued in this district.

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