Elephant Mosquito

(Toxorhynchetes brevipalpis)

Identification:

Large mosquito with wingspan of 18mm with robust, recurved proboscis, metallic green blue scales on with striped legs and body with a white stripe on the side of the body

Biology:

Adults feed on nectar and do not feed on blood. Larvae are predaceous on other mosquito larvae that breed on water filled cavities in tree trunks

Habitat:

Larvae occur in tree holes and lead axils of large leaved plants like Strelitzia's. Distribution on the coastal areas and the northern part on the country

Bush Mosquito

(Aedes aegyptil)

Identification:

Small wingspan of 6-8mm with characteristics black and with banded legs and abdomen and mostly only biting during the day.

Biology:

Eggs are laid singly, often in water collected by leaf axils of Strelitzia plants. Aedes aegytii transmits microorganisms that cause yellow fever as well as filariasis(elephantiasis)

Habitat:

Indoor or outdoors. The cosmopolitan. Aegyptii occurs only in homes and is common on the coastal regions and the northern part of the country. In summer, mosquitoes become a major nuisance as they seek out humans for their blood meal.

Control:

Lighting around property can draw mosquitoes to the property so lighting should be directed to shine away from the buildings. Remove all standing water to remove breeding sites. Larvacides are very coupled with ulv treatments. Residual spraying of the mosquito resting areas is also advisable.

House Mosquito

(Culex Pipiens)

Identification:

Small wingspan roughly 8mm uniformly brown with yellow striped abdomen

Biology:

Culex pipiens breed in small containers if stagnant water and can overwinter as larvae, pupae or adult mosquitoes. The species of mosquito is a vector of filriasisi (elephantiasis). They lay their eggs in the water surface on rafts containing two hundred to three hundred eggs. Eggs hatch in two to three days, completing development in ten days.

Habitat:

It is normally associated with human habitation. Common genus of the indoor mosquito. They prefer to breed in ponds, canals, burrows, ditched, mud pools, barrels and bird baths.

Control:

Lighting around property can draw mosquitoes to the property so lighting should be directed to shine away from the buildings. Remove all standing water to remove breeding sites. Larvacides are very coupled with ulv treatments. Residual spraying of the mosquito resting areas is also advisable.

Malaria Mosquito

(Anopheles cinereus)

Identification:

Thin, dark with white banded legs and white flecked wings.

Biology:

Rests at forty-five degrees to the horizontal. Eggs are laid singly have tiny floats attached to them are laid in unpolluted water. Eggs hatch within two to six days with a total development taking about two weeks. Is a vector of malaria. The adults overwinter in sheltered locations, and in spring, females seek blood meals after which they remain secluded and then lay their eggs.

Habitat:

The mosquitoes' habit of entering huts contributes to it's vector status. The larvae is found in a wide variety of wet habitats such as pools, ditches and streams and is common in areas where extensive irrigation of crops occur. Widespread in SA.

Control:

Lighting around property can draw mosquitoes to the property so lighting should be directed to shine away from the buildings. Remove all standing water to remove breeding sites.

Larvacides are very coupled with ulv treatments. Residual spraying of the mosquito resting areas is also advisable.