

BRIEF COMMUNICATION AN UNUSUAL GROUND LARVAL HABITAT OF *Aedes albopictus*

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As far as it is known *Aedes albopictus* is a container breeder mosquito. Both natural and artificial receptacles are utilized by that mosquito as larval habitat. Nevertheless ESTRADA-FRANCO & CRAIG (1995) mentioned ground pools when they recorded natural breeding places. In some way, rock holes may be considered similar to the last one, even though they differ from each other in organic matter concentration of the water collected. In fact, in many occasions rock holes were indicated to be larval habitat (ROZEBOOM & BRIDGES, 1972; McCLELLAND et al., 1973; HAWLEY, 1988; PEÑA, 1993; O'MEARA et al., 1997). Among the unusual recorded artificial habitats for that mosquito, shallow accumulations of water on cement floors up to 20 storeys above the ground in Malaysia and underground storm drains in Italy can be mentioned (NATHAN & KNUDSEN, 1994; BLACKMORE, 1995).

During a pilot survey about mosquito fauna in the Paraíba Valley in southeastern Brazil, breeding places of *Aedes albopictus* were searched. Beside several containers, a ground larval habitat was found inside a residual forest patch in Pindamonhangaba city. It was a ground cavity remaining at the root place of a *Piptadenia* ("angico branco") fall tree. So, a ground hole was produced, and filled with about seventeen liters of rain water (Fig. 1). In August 1997 64 larvae of the following species were collected:

<i>Aedes albopictus</i>	24
<i>Culex declarator</i>	11
<i>Cx. quinquefasciatus</i>	24
<i>Culex (Cux.)</i> gr. <i>Coronator</i>	5



Fig. 1. Ground hole containing rain water where *Ae. albopictus* larvae were collected.

That type of larval habitat may be compared to a hollow log where the mosquito was already found (ROZEBOOM & BRIDGES, 1972). Furthermore, the presence of *Culex declarator* and *Culex Coronator* group together with *Ae. albopictus* suggest strongly eclecticism on the part of these mosquito larvae.

Although no epidemiological data are available to consider *Aedes albopictus* as a dengue vector in Brazil, its potential role cannot be denied. Laboratory studies show that this species is susceptible to and can transmit several arboviruses of public health importance (MITCHELL, 1991). *Aedes albopictus* has ability to colonize man-made containers and its evolution shows great capacity to survive in

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anthropic environment conditions. Perhaps it is possible that this evolution in a closer association with man, at some extension may become it a ground breeder mosquito too.

RESUMO

Nota sobre criadouro de *Aedes albopictus* no solo

Relata-se o encontro de criadouro de *Aedes albopictus* no solo. Tratou-se de buraco resultante da queda de árvore *Piptadenia* ("angico branco") onde foram coletadas larvas daquele mosquito, juntamente com representantes de *Culex declarator*, *Cx. quinquefasciatus* e *Culex (Cux.)* sp. do Grupo Coronator. O criadouro comportou cerca de 17 litros de água proveniente de chuvas locais. O achado deu-se em mata residual dentro de perímetro urbano da cidade de Pindamonhangaba no Vale do Paraíba, Estado de São Paulo, Brasil. Discute-se o significado do encontro como provável indicador de ecletismo comportamental e de adaptação do culicídeo ao ambiente antrópico.

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