

Aedes albopictus

(the Asian tiger mosquito)

Ae. albopictus biology and vector status

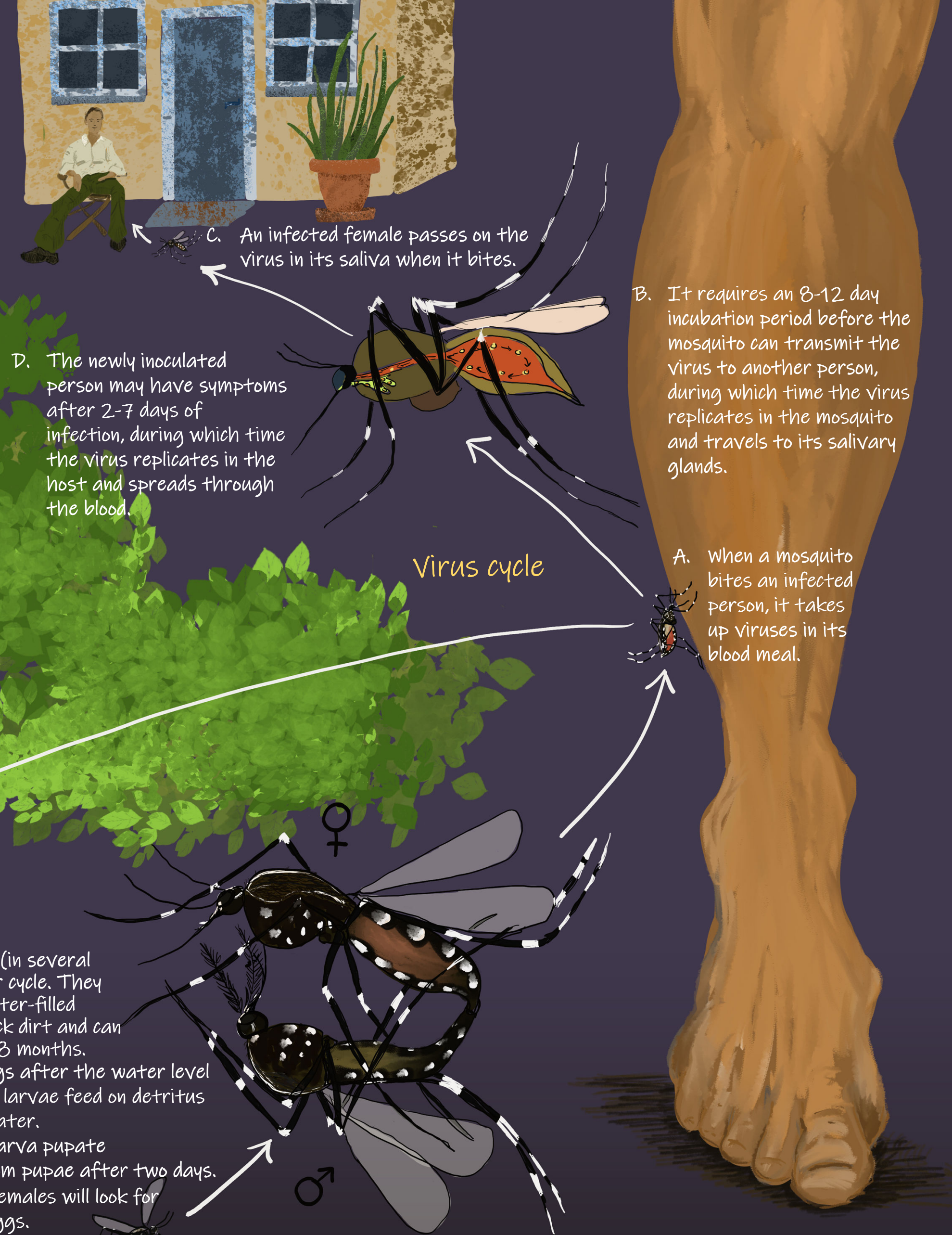
Aedes albopictus is the one of the main vectors of dengue, chikungunya, Zika and yellow fever viruses. These are referred to as 'arboviruses' (arthropod-borne viruses). More than half the world's population is at risk of contracting mosquito-borne diseases.

Aedes albopictus can be recognized by white banding on its legs and a distinctive line pattern on its thorax. This mosquito is found in rural and semi-urban settings in tropical, subtropical and temperate regions throughout the world.



Aedes albopictus
Thorax

It bites during the day, with the most active feeding period 2 hours before and after dawn / dusk. Only the female mosquitoes bite, using the blood as an energy source to produce eggs. The males feed on nectar.



Life cycle

- Females lay up to 100 eggs (in several batches; skip oviposition) per cycle. They oviposit on moist walls of water-filled containers. Eggs look like black dirt and can survive drying out for up to 8 months.
- Larvae emerge from the eggs after the water level rises to cover the eggs. The larvae feed on detritus and microorganisms in the water.
- After molting 4 times, the larva pupate
- Adult mosquitoes emerge from pupae after two days.
- After blood feeding, mated females will look for water sources to lay their eggs.

Breeding sites

- Roof guttering
- Plants: vases, trays, leaf axils
- Tires
- Bottles / cans
- Pet dishes
- Laundry tanks / cisterns
- Buckets / containers
- Garden tools
- Drums / barrels

How to prevent mosquito-borne diseases

No vaccines are available to prevent dengue, chikungunya or Zika. Therefore, avoiding infection by preventing mosquito bites is the best option thus far.

- Take steps to control mosquitoes inside and outside of your home:
 - Reduce breeding sites by removing objects that can accumulate water
 - Keep trash cans, water barrels, etc. sealed
 - Remove debris from gutters
 - To kill mosquito eggs, wash containers used to store water weekly (with brush and soap)
- Use insect repellent with proven active ingredients such as DEET, icaridin, or oil of lemon / eucalyptus to prevent mosquito bites.

