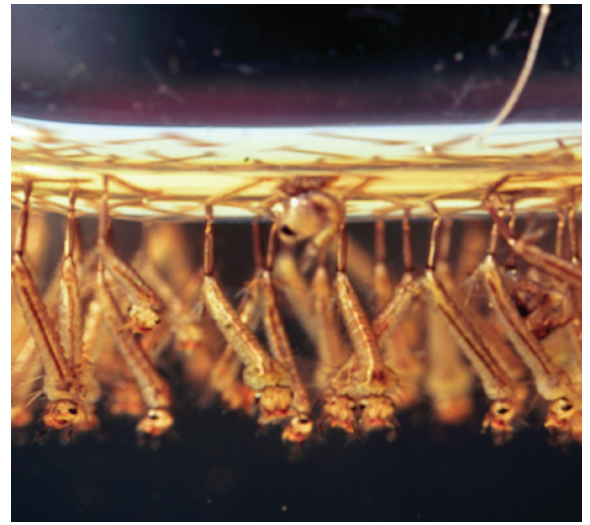


The Asian tiger mosquito has emerged as a major nuisance and disease-carrying mosquito in South Carolina.



Photo courtesy of Susan Ellis, Bugwood.org



Mosquito larva, taken by Jim Occi, Bugwood.org

Characterized by white and black markings, these mosquitoes are also distinguished by a single silvery-white line on the backside of the thorax or torso.

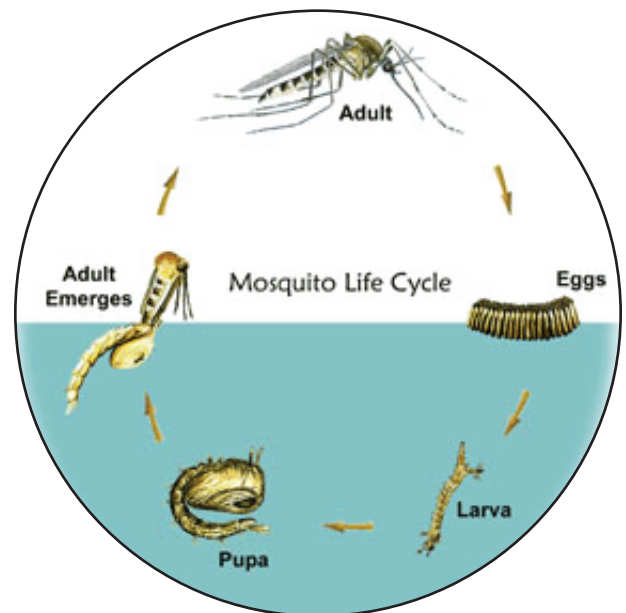
Asian tiger mosquitoes originate from Southeast Asia but have in the last 50 years spread to Europe, the Americas, the Caribbean, Africa and the Middle East. They first were detected in North America in a shipment of used tires at the Port of Houston in 1985 and have since spread throughout the southern United States. Because of its aggressive expansion, the Global Invasive Species Database lists it as one of the world's worst invasive species.

The Asian tiger mosquito can transmit pathogens and viruses such as the West Nile Virus. It can also cause Heartworm in dogs and cats.

These mosquitoes have proven very difficult to control because of their ability to adapt to various environments, their close contact with humans, and their reproductive biology. Asian tiger mosquitoes are also unique in that they usually fly and feed in the daytime. This trait, in particular, makes it difficult to treat with traditional insecticide spraying.

Control of the Asian tiger mosquito begins with eliminating the places where they lay eggs. These spots are never far from where people are being bitten, because the Asian tiger mosquito has only about a 200-yard flying radius.

Search your property for any containers or pools of stagnant water that last more than three days, as these are ideal breeding sites for mosquitoes. Common sources include birdbaths, flowerpots, buckets, old tires, pet bowls, sagging or plugged roof gutters, and inlets to sewers and drainage systems.



Courtesy of the American Mosquito Control Association

For more information on the treatment and identification of the Asian tiger mosquito, please call Santee Cooper's vector management department at 843-761-8000, ext. 4407.