

SEASONAL PREVALENCE OF *Aedes aegypti* IMMATURES IN KOLKATA, INDIA

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Abstract. Dengue and dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) is recurring in India in recent years, affecting many cities including Kolkata (Calcutta). In view of this, a survey of three years was carried out on the prevalence of immatures of the vector mosquito *Aedes aegypti* in the city of Kolkata. Mosquito immatures were found throughout the year with fluctuating densities in the habitats surveyed. An index of density of immatures $(I/S)_m$ employed in the study revealed that in the months of August and September a peak in abundance occurs, irrespective of the habitats, with the values ranging between 1.12 and 11.4. The $(I/S)_m$ values were low during the months of April and May ranging between 0.4 and 3.8. As larval habitats, earthen containers and the sewage drains were positive throughout the year, while during the months of December to February, air-coolers and conditioners as habitats remained totally dry, without immature *Ae. aegypti*. The number of positive sites and monthly density between the habitat types were significantly different with an I/S -value (for a year) ranging between 2.64 (air-coolers) and 4.97 (earthen containers). The survey, while providing preliminary baseline data on immature abundance in Kolkata, calls for continuous entomological surveillance using standard protocols as carried out in Thailand for the vector management program against dengue.

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