Aedes albopictus also known as the Asian Tiger Mosquito is an aggressive daytime biter. This habit may quickly get the attention of the public living near a newly established colony. This early diffusion pattern of Ae. albopictus before it has established itself it has become a primary nuisance mosquito. Also, it creates the potential for increased transmission of numerous arboviruses. The early detection of an infestation lies in the ability to identify the mosquito species and capabilities for early detection. MCP's whose jurisdictions contain primarily natural mosquito breeding habitat will have to reorient a part of their surveillance effort to focus on artificial habitats in urban areas where mosquitoes have historically caused little alarm. Sites like those mentioned above may have few if any residents that could serve as an early warning mechanism in regard to an introduced population of Ae. albopictus. Early detection would also increase the success of control efforts. Mosquito Control Projects will need to devote personnel to the monitoring of possible entry points like those mentioned above to intercept the introduction of immature Ae. albopictus. MCP's whose jurisdictions contain primarily natural mosquito breeding habitat will have to reorient a part of their surveillance effort to focus on artificial habitats in urban areas where mosquitoes have historically caused little alarm. A sustained surveillance program is the first step in preventing Aedes albopictus from colonizing Massachusetts. Such a program could build on the strengths of the existing mosquito surveillance programs of the Mosquito Control Projects and Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Since its discovery in Houston, Texas in 1985 Aedes albopictus has colonized a vast area of the U.S.A. The early pattern of dispersal followed the interstate highway system, which suggests further dispersal by human activities.

To fully utilize the public’s sensitivities to changes in their neighborhood the MCP must educate the public about mosquitoes in general.

The biology and life history of mosquitoes.

The biting habits of adult mosquitoes.

The movement of adult mosquitoes.

To further educate the public about mosquitoes the MCP must involve itself in programs that will increase awareness of the mosquito threat. The CMMCP has developed and published a series of two (2) brochures about mosquitoes. These brochures can be obtained from the CMMCP or from the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control District.

Aedes albopictus is a non-native species with a flight range of less than .6 km. The rapidity of its spread to so many locations in the U.S. is therefore remarkable, and implies an efficient man-made dispersal mechanism. The early diffusion pattern of Aedes albopictus in the U.S. is related to the proximity of a county to an interstate (high volume traffic movement). Many counties infected with Ae. albopictus have interstates that run through them. The dispersion of Ae. albopictus also followed human commercial activity especially as it related to the movement of goods or scrap tires such as for retreading, recycling, legal junk yards, illegal dumping, or other purposes conducive to the transport of Ae. albopictus eggs.


Mosquito Control Surveillance Team member collecting adult mosquitoes in an urban area for later identification.

A display board used by the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project to educate the public about mosquitoes and the CMMCP services. The board is placed for public viewing in such places as Town Halls and Community Health Fairs.

A brochure created by the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project. In addition to being informative about mosquitoes and their life history, the brochure also encourages the citizen to be proactive about controlling mosquitoes.