

Mosquitoes in Townsville

Many types or species of mosquitoes live in the different environments around Townsville. Some mosquitoes live in wetland areas, such as mangroves and beaches, while others live around homes and gardens close to people. Female mosquitoes bite to acquire blood, which contains protein they need for egg production. Male mosquitoes do not bite and feed mostly on nectar from flowers.

The mosquitoes below are the most common found in Townsville.

■ Mosquitoes found around homes

■ Mosquitoes found in wetland areas

Aedes vigilax



Lives: In swamps, open drains and puddles.

Breeds: In salt or brackish water pools in tidal areas, lays eggs on the waterline of marine mud and plants.

Adults fly: Approximately 20-50km from breeding sites.

Feeds (bites): Day and night on people and animals. Is a savage biter and a major pest mosquito. Can be very abundant during summer.

Diseases: Can transmit Ross River fever and Barmah Forest fever.

Verrallina species



Lives: In rainforests, mangroves and paperbark swamps.

Breeds: In shaded rainforest pools, brackish water swamps and temporary groundwater with decaying vegetation.

Adults fly: Short distances from breeding sites.

Feeds (bites): Day and night, close to breeding sites, on people, animals and birds.

Diseases: Can transmit Ross River fever.

Aedes aegypti



Lives: In and around homes, close to people.

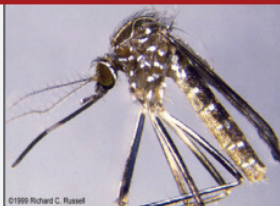
Breeds: In and around homes, lays eggs on the waterline of artificial containers such as pot plant bases, tyres without rims, buckets, birdbaths, tarps and occasionally bromeliads.

Adults fly: About 50-200m from breeding sites and often hide in dark, sheltered areas, such as behind furniture.

Feeds (bites): During the day, usually indoors, mostly on people.

Diseases: Can transmit dengue and chikungunya.

Aedes notoscriptus



Lives: In and around homes, close to people.

Breeds: In and around homes, lays eggs on the waterline of any container holding water.

Adults fly: 50-200m from breeding sites.


Feeds (bites): During the day, mostly on people and domestic animals.

Diseases: Can transmit Ross River fever.

Other species - see over the page

Other mosquito species found in Townsville

The mosquitoes described below are less common in Townsville, but are regularly found during particular times of the year (eg. Wet season).

 Mosquitoes found around homes

 Mosquitoes found in wetland areas

Culex sitiens



Lives: In swamps, open drains and puddles.

Breeds: In brackish water in salt marshes or drains, lays eggs on the water surface.

Adults fly: About 20km from breeding sites.

Feeds (bites): Mainly at night on people, animals and birds.

Diseases: None known.

Culex annulirostris



Lives: In swamps, open drains and puddles.

Breeds: In freshwater puddles, swamps and streams containing plants, lays eggs on the water surface.

Adults fly: About 2-5km from breeding sites.

Feeds (bites): At night, on people, animals and birds.

Diseases: Can transmit Ross River fever, Barmah Forest fever, Murray Valley encephalitis and Japanese encephalitis.

Anopheles farauti



Lives: In swamps, open drains and puddles.

Breeds: In puddles or swamps containing fresh or brackish water, lays eggs on the water surface.

Adults fly: About 1-2km from breeding sites.

Feeds (bites): At night, inside and outside homes, on people, animals and birds.

Diseases: Can transmit malaria.

Culex quinquefasciatus



Lives: In and around homes, close to people.

Breeds: In polluted water in drains, sumps, ponds and artificial containers, lays eggs on the water surface.

Adults fly: About 500m from breeding sites.

Feeds (bites): At night, on people, animals and birds.

Diseases: Can transmit dog heartworm.

Aedes palmarum



Lives: In and around homes, close to people.

Breeds: Mainly in fallen palm fronds, occasionally in water in artificial containers.

Adults fly: Unknown distances from breeding sites.

Feeds (bites): During the day, on people and animals.

Diseases: None known.