IDENTIFICATION OF Aedes albopictus IN GUATEMALA
(Diptera, Culicidae)

Abstract. The identification of Aedes albopictus in Guatemala considering the local fauna as represented by Clark-Gil & Darsie (1983) is discussed.

Adult Female (Figure 1)

Identification of the adult female of Aedes albopictus is quite easy once it is recognized as a member of the genus Aedes. To do that it is necessary to use the generic key (p. 167). It will pass to couplet 16(14) without difficulty where it must be separated from Psorophora by the absence of prespiracular bristles and the presence of white bands on the abdominal tergites.

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Psorophora. This can be accomplished by observing the absence of the pre-spiracular setae and by the presence on the abdominal terga of pale-scaled bands basal in position.

In the key to Aedes species (p. 169), *Ae. albopictus* passes to couplet 20(19) easily, where it must be separated from *Aedes aegypti* (Linnaeus). With the following modifications and adding an extra couplet, 20A(20), it is possible to distinguish *Ae. albopictus* from the mosquito fauna of Guatemala.

20(19). Pale-scaled basal bands on abdominal terga bilobed posteriorly; hindtarsomeres with narrow bands of pale scales . . . . . . *vexans*

Pale-scaled basal bands on abdominal terga straight or arched; hindtarsomeres 1-4 with wide bands of pale scales . . . . . . 20A

20A(20). Scutum with pattern of pale scales in form of lyre; sterna II-V entirely pale-scaled . . . . . . . *aegypti*

Scutum with thin longitudinal median line of white scales; sterna II-V with apical or subapical bands of dark scales . . . *albopictus*

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**Fourth Stage Larva (Figure 2)**

In the generic key (p. 206), larvae of *Ae. albopictus* will pass to couplet 19(18). The saddle does not completely encircle abdominal segment X and the size of seta 3-VII is small to medium. Since it is difficult to locate seta 3-VII, or it is damaged or absent, it is possible to use the number and morphology of the comb scales.

20(19). Bandas basales de escamas pálidas en los tergos abdominales bilobuladas posteriormemente; tarsómeros posteriores con anillos delgados de escamas pálidas. . *vexans*

Bandas basales en los tergos abdominales rectas o arqueadas; tarsómeros posteriores con bandas anchas de escamas pálidas. . . . . . 20A

20A(20). Escudo con patrón de escamas pálidas en forma de lira; esternones II-V completamente cubiertos de escamas pálidas . . . . . . . . *aegypti*

Escudo con línea delgada longitudinal media de escamas blancas; esternones II-V con bandas de escamas oscuras en posición apical o subapical . . . *albopictus*

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En la clave genérica (página 218), las larvas de *Ae. albopictus* pasarán hasta la pareja 19(18). La silla de montar no rodea el segmento abdominal X y la cerda 3-VII es desde tamaño mediano hasta pequeño. Sin embargo, si no se pudiera localizar la cerda 3-VII o si ésta estuviera dañada, es posible usar el número y la morfología de los dientes.
Ae. albopictus larvae have 8-12 comb scales, each with a large, smooth, apical spine and very small, basal spicules. In the Guatemalan species of Haemagogus and Aedes subgenus Howardina, the larvae have more than 12 comb scales, or if fewer than 12 (as in certain species of Haemagogus) then each comb scale has a fringe of fine spicules, including the apical spine (Arnell, 1973, Berlin, 1969). In addition, larvae of the latter two taxa have prominent spicules dorso-posteriorly on the saddle and Ae. albopictus larvae do not.

In the key to species of Aedes (p. 208), the larvae of Ae. albopictus pass easily to couplet 15(14), where an additional couplet needs to be inserted to identify them, as follows:

15(14). Abdominal segment VIII with 8-12 comb scales; seta 4-X with 4 pairs of setae, each usually single; seta 1-A short, not reaching more than 0.75 distance to apex of antenna. *Ae. albopictus*

15A(15). Seta 5-C usually with 4 or more branches and/or seta 14-P branched *daryi*

Seta 5-C usually with 1-3 branches and seta 14-P usually simple, at least on one side. . . . 16

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LITERATURE CITED

[BIBLIOGRAFIA]


Figure 1. Adult female of *Aedes albopictus*. Top – lateral view, middle – dorsal view of wing, bottom left – legs and tarsal claws, bottom right – dorsal view (From Tanaka et al. 1979).

Figure 2. Fourth stage instar larva of *Aedes albopictus*. Top-lateral view, middle-dorsal view of wing, bottom left - legs and tarsal claws, bottom right - dorsal view (From Tanaka et al. 1979).

Figure 2. Larva de Cuarto Estadio de *Aedes albopictus*. Arriba-vista lateral, mediana-vista dorsal del ala, abajo a la izquierda - las patas y uñas tarsales, abajo a la derecha - vista dorsal (de Tanaka et al. 1979).