

MOSQUITOES: THE IMMINENT THREAT

¿WHAT IS A MOSQUITO?

- Insects widely distributed
- Life cycle consists of: egg, larva, pupa and adult
- Adult females are the only hematophagous stage
- High influence of temperature and stagnant water points



MAIN CHARACTERISTICS

- Elongated and small size 4-10 mm
- Two principal genera: *Aedes* spp. y *Culex* spp.
- Mouthparts (1), wings (2) y 3 long pair legs (3)

¿WHERE ARE THE MOSQUITOES?



Their presence depends on environmental factors such as **temperature** or the existence of **stagnant water** for breeding



IN SPAIN MOSQUITOES ARE VECTORS OF...



West Nile Fever Virus



Dengue Virus



Chikungunya Virus



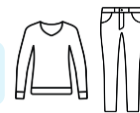
Zika Virus

Culex spp.

Aedes spp.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Clothing that covers legs, arms and feet or the use of mosquito nets



Use authorized repellents according to technical instructions

Avoid maximum activity hours (sunrise and sunset)



Avoid accumulation of water in pots or containers

Correct sanitation of house drains and gutters



Take extra precaution during international travel

IN THE PRESENCE OF MOSQUITOES AND THEIR BITES



Continue to maintain preventive measures



Monitor for fever or other symptoms



Contact a health center or healthcare professional

Glosario

- ▶ **Hematophagous:** organism whose feeding habit is the consumption of blood. In the case of mosquitoes, only adult females are hematophagous.
- ▶ **Reservoir:** vertebrate animal capable of harboring a pathogen without causing symptoms in the host.
- ▶ **Host:** vertebrate animal that harbors, carries or serves as food for an organism, in this case a mosquito, generally in a parasitic relationship.
- ▶ **Life cycle:** series of phases through which an organism passes from birth to death. The mosquito cycle comprises 4 phases: egg, larva, pupa and adult.
- ▶ **Preventive measures:** set of actions to prevent mosquito bites. These actions should be carried out when there is a risk of contact with mosquitoes, as well as after a mosquito bite or diagnosis of vector-borne disease in the person. Because it could act as a transmitter of the pathogen to other mosquitoes.
- ▶ **Egg:** first stage of the cycle, deposited by the female in water or wet surfaces. They are usually <1 mm in size and can be arranged individually or grouped in clusters, depending on the species. They usually hatch in a few days when environmental conditions are suitable.
- ▶ **Larva:** second life stage. Larvae are aquatic with a segmented body and a defined head. They go through different larval stages, increasing in size. Their length varies according to species and stage, ranging from 1 to 10 mm. During this stage, they feed on microorganisms and organic matter present in the water.
- ▶ **Pupa:** last stage of development. This stage is also aquatic and lasts from a few days to a week. Pupae have a different shape and do not feed, but can move in the water. The length of the pupae varies between 4 to 6 mm. It is in this phase that metamorphosis occurs, which will give rise to the adult mosquito.
- ▶ **Adult:** phase of the cycle in which the adult mosquito emerges from the water surface. Adults have a brief period of maturation and then reproduce. Males are usually smaller than females. Their length varies between 3 and 6 mm, depending on the species.
- ▶ **Mouthparts (proboscis):** females have a mouthparts adapted to pierce the skin and suck blood.
- ▶ **Repellents:** products used to prevent contact with mosquitoes. You can consult the effective and authorized repellents in Spain: [Spanish Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices \(AEMPS\)](#).
[Ministry of Health](#)

For more information, visit our [website](#).

For any questions or suggestions, please contact:
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