# Microclimate and Mosquitoes in Athens, GA

Michelle Evans, Courtney Murdock

October 12, 2016

Georgia Mosquito Control Association Annual Meeting





### Global Annual Mean Temperatures

## Areas with Known Dengue Transmission





**Global Annual Mean Temperatures** 

# The geographic distribution of mosquito-borne disease is highly correlated with temperature

Areas with Known Dengue Transmission



# Understanding the link between malaria risk and climate

Krijn P. Paaijmans<sup>a,1</sup>, Andrew F. Read<sup>a,b</sup>, and Matthew B. Thomas<sup>a</sup>

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Edited by Burton H. Singer, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, and approved June 8, 2009 (received for review March 27, 2009)

#### GLOBAL-SCALE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CLIMATE AND THE DENGUE FEVER VECTOR, AEDES AEGYPTI

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Large-Scale Modelling of the Environmentally-Driven Population Dynamics of Temperate *Aedes albopictus* (Skuse)

Kamil Erguler<sup>1</sup>\*, Stephanie E. Smith-Unna<sup>2,3</sup>, Joanna Waldock<sup>1,4</sup>, Yiannis Proestos<sup>5</sup>, George K. Christophides<sup>4,5</sup>, Jos Lelieveld<sup>1,6</sup>, Paul E. Parham<sup>7,8</sup>\*

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Curr Clim Change Rep DOI 10.1007/s40641-015-0022-6

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN HEALTH (LS KALKSTEIN AND R DAVIS, SECTION EDITORS)

#### Climate Change and the Crystal Ball of Vector-Borne Disease Forecasts

Aaron Bernstein<sup>1,2</sup>

ANNALS OF THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES Issue: Human Health in the Face of Climate Change

#### Urban climate versus global climate change the difference for dengue?

#### Renaud Misslin, 1.ª Olivier Telle, 2.3.ª Eric Daudé, 2 Alain Vaguet, 1 and Richard E. Paul 4.5

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# The issue of scale-mismatch

150 mi resolution

12 mi resolution





Climate data is often recorded at a coarser scale than mosquitoes experience...

# Leading to incorrect predictions of disease risk

Photo Credit: Univ. of Alaska - Fairbanks

# Mosquitoes require an even finer scale



- Developed landscapes have a wide range of climates, termed microclimates
- Current predictions of vector borne disease focus on a much coarser scale, ignoring the heterogeneity of the landscape

How is mosquito-borne disease risk impacted by fine-scale changes in microclimate across a heterogeneous landscape (e.g. a city)?

# Temperature and Mosquito Traits

- The relationship between temperature and mosquito life-history traits are unimodal
- Many traits contribute to the overall vectorial capacity of a mosquito, i.e. the rate at which future infections arise from one mosquito
- Most traits are not well parameterized, often relying on other species or few data points

$$VC = \frac{ma^2 b e^{-\mu EIP}}{\mu}$$



Mordecai et al. 2012

How does urban microclimate impact the mosquito traits that vectorial capacity depends on?

Do these changes in traits ultimately lead to changes in mosquito-borne disease risk across human-modified landscapes?

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PanDengueNet

# Experimental Design



http://narsal.uga.edu/glut/data-stats/georgia-impervious-surface-trends







## Suburban



## Urban

Summer & Fall Trials, 2016

## Experimental Design cont.

**X4** 

At each 30 x 30 m site:

100 1<sup>st</sup> instar Ae. albopictus larvae

1 L leaf infusion

Offered dengue infectious blood meal to *Ae. albopictus* aged 4-6 days old



Choochote & Saeung 2013



Tested mosquitoes for dengue infection and infectiousness 14 and 21 days post infection (dpi) & measured wing length —



© UnDark

## Average Temperatures



Although not significant, there were several trends...

- Mosquitoes emerged earlier and at a faster rate in urban land classes
- Fewer larvae emerged in urban land classes than in rural or suburban

# Female Emergence











» Mosquitoes in urban sites were significantly larger

» There was a wider range of mosquitoes from rural sites than others

Why the unexpected results?

- » Only a subsample (n=60) of ~200 females per site
- » These mosquitoes were ones that survived dengue infection, and smaller mosquitoes may not have survived to the sample time point

# Mosquito Infections (Body)

- » Mosquitoes sampled at 21 days were significantly more likely to be infected than those at 14 days
- » Urban sites had the lowest infection rates
   » Perhaps due to the larger body size
- » Suburban mosquitoes were slightly more likely to be infected than rural



# Mosquito Infectiousness (Saliva)

» No clear trend in infectious mosquitoes

» Lower numbers of infectious mosquitoes vs. infected mosquitoes (body)

» Between 0 – 25% infectious rates by site



# Implications for Disease Risk

### Lower larval emergence rates

Higher fecundity rates

$$VC = \frac{ma^2 b e^{-\mu EIP}}{\mu}$$

No change in infectious mosquitoes

Higher larval mortality

Faster EIP rate (maybe)

Next step: Calculate vectorial capacity for each site using these parameters we measured in the field

# Complementary Work

» Currently conducting the fall trial of this experiment

- » Bi-weekly adult sampling
- » Larval habitat sampling
- » Incorporate field-derived data into a spatial and temporal model of mosquito-borne disease risk



# Thank you!

## The Murdock Lab

## Nikki Solano (REU Student)



### **Research Assistants**

Diana Diaz













CENTER FOR THE ECOLOGY OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES



The Graduate School



