



**Michael T. Riles**  
**Co-Director**

Jekyll Island Georgia, Georgia Mosquito Control Association Conference 2023

Contributors: Bryan V. Giordano, Michael T. Riles, Benjamin Allen, Ana L. Romera-Weaver, Yoosook Lee

**Biodiversity  
Enhancement  
And  
Control  
Of  
Non-native  
Species**



**Shining Light on Invasive  
and Non-Native Mosquito  
Species in the South**

Hillsboro Lighthouse at the Pompano Beach Inlet, FL



# Board of Directors 2023

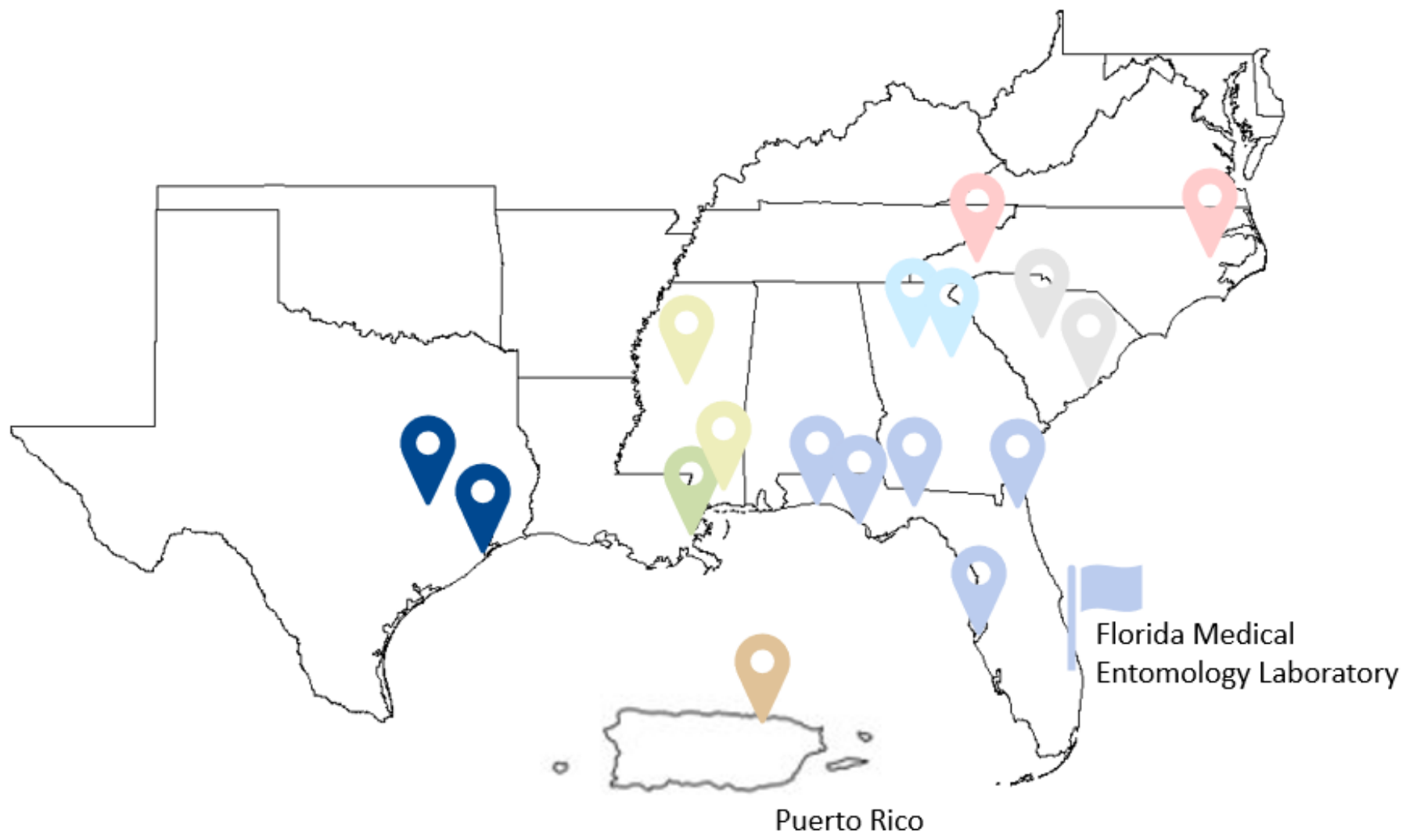


# We Are...

- Mosquito Control Professionals
  - Private Pest Control
  - Public Health Professionals
  - Academics (Research and Extension)
- 
- A close-up photograph of a mosquito on a human arm, with its proboscis inserted into the skin. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting.



# 2022 Membership



Florida Medical  
Entomology Laboratory

Puerto Rico



Mosquito BEACONS  
Working Group

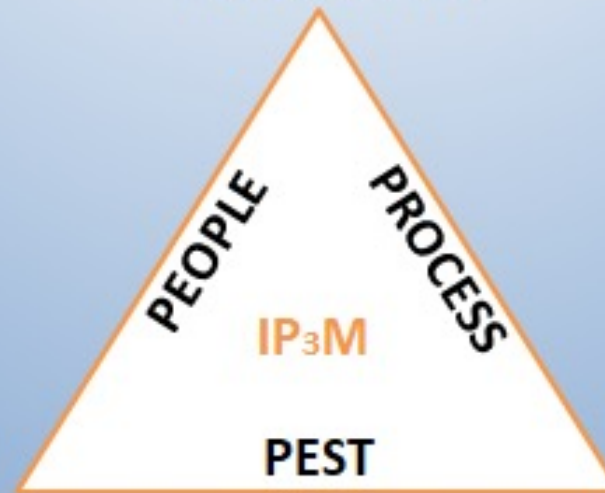
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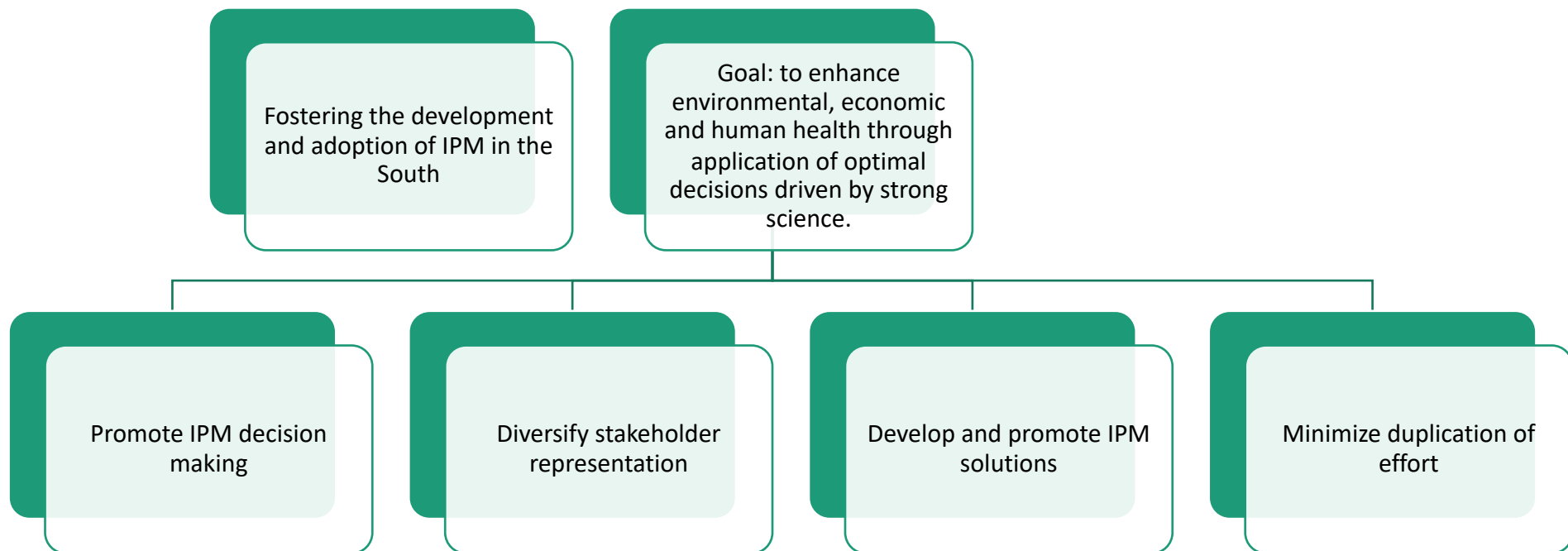
IP<sub>3</sub>M

INTEGRATED



MANAGEMENT

A fundamental understanding of the human element and ecological systems within an area of concern is essential to recognizing reasons behind pest issues, the solutions for controlling them, and the implications of those actions.





Southern

# FRIENDS OF IPM AWARDS



2022

## 2022 Pulling Together Award



Mosquito BEACONS  
Working Group



<https://fmel.ifas.ufl.edu/invasivemosquito/>

## THE MOSQUITO BEACONS WORKING GROUP



### ABOUT THE BEACONS WORKING GROUP

The Mosquito Biodiversity Enhancement and Control of Non-native Species (BEACONS) working group has members from Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, and North and South Carolina, and consists of academic researchers, mosquito control personnel and senior management, private pest control, state public health and agriculture entities, and the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

We are a multi-state committee dedicated to providing leadership on invasive mosquito species in the southern region. The overall goal of our working group is to increase the capacity for non-native and invasive mosquito surveillance and control across our region, while also raising awareness of new and potential introductions.

Caption: *Culex coronator* is a highly invasive Neotropical species that has been introduced to Florida and the southeastern United States. (Photo Credit: L. E. Reeves).

Agriculture

Natural Resources

Home Landscapes

Work & Life

4-H & Youth



Shining light on invasive and non-native mosquito species

Home » UF/IFAS Entomology And Nematology Department » IPM Working Group Hosts Multi-State Workshop On Invasive Mosquitoes

## IPM Working Group Hosts Multi-State Workshop on Invasive Mosquitoes

Author Profile

[bryangiordano](#)



Bryan is a founder of the  
Multi-State BEACONS

# BEACONS Dashboard Map



Contributors:



UF IFAS  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

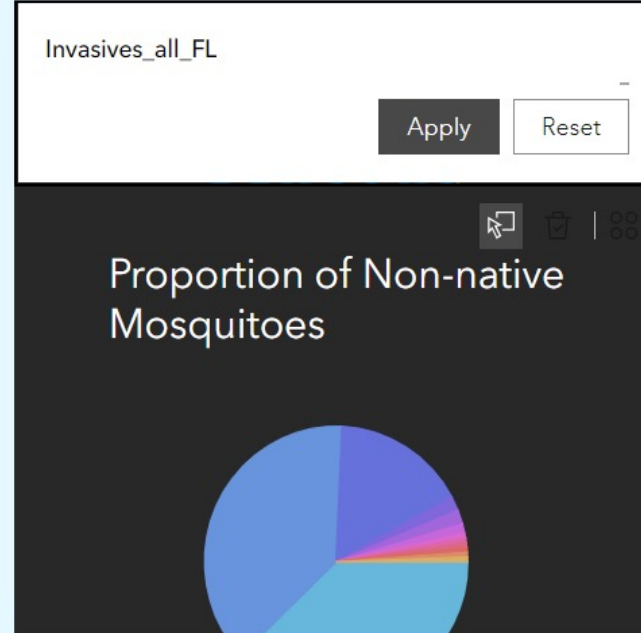
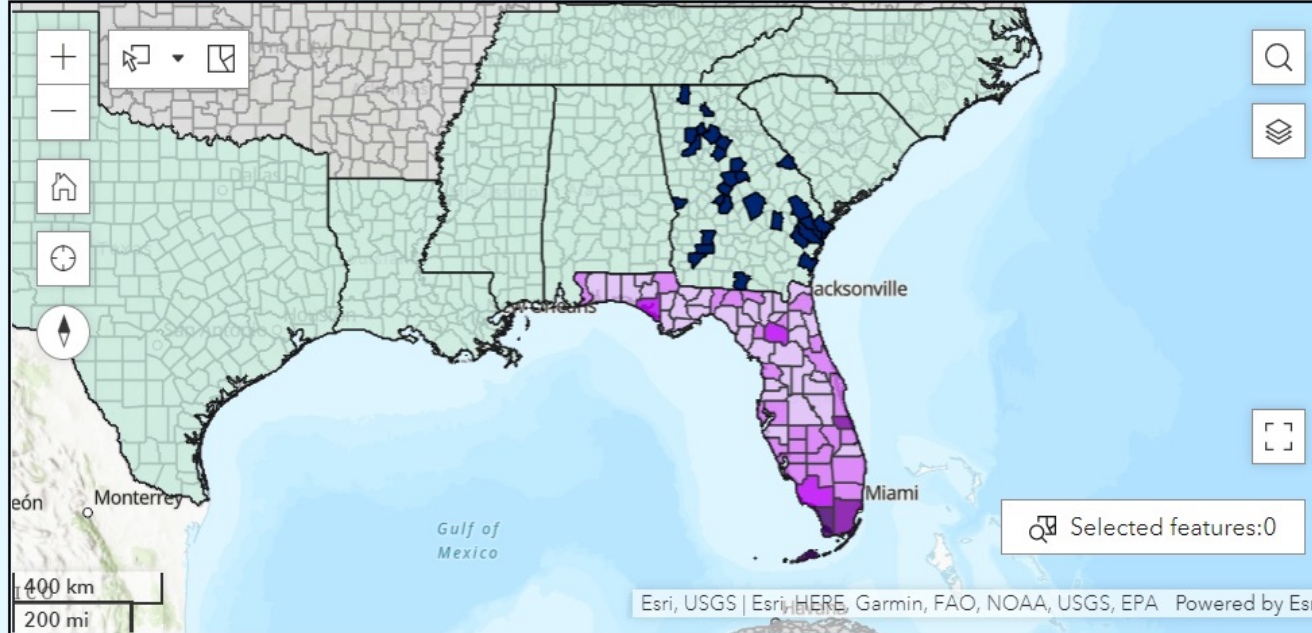


## THE MOSQUITO BEACONS WORKING GROUP




## ABOUT THE BEACONS WORKING GROUP

The Mosquito Biodiversity



## Aedes aegypti



"In the early 1900s, *Aedes aegypti* distribution extended from the southern United States down to Argentina. The mid-1900s saw the development of a...

UF IFAS Featured Creatures

### Biology of Non-native Mosquitoes

Search

Mosquito Species	Behavior	Larval Habitat	Pre...
Aedes aegypti	Day time biters	Natural and artificial conta...	Ma...
Aedes albopictus	Crepuscular biters	Natural and artificial conta...	Ma...

# THE MOSQUITO BEACONS WORKING GROUP

The BEACONS Working Group is collecting information pertaining to the distribution of invasive and non-native species of interest. Please use this form to submit the date, locality, coordinates, and collection method if known.

## MOSQUITO BEACONS DATA SUBMISSION

Invasive and Non-Native Mosquito Species Submissions

**Agency Name \***

First

**Data Manager \***

First

Last

**Email \***

**How many species are you reporting? \***

# BEACONS Working Group Objectives



STAKEHOLDER  
MEETINGS



SURVEILLANCE  
CAPACITY SURVEY



STAKEHOLDER  
ENGAGEMENT



# STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

- **Identify priorities** for invasive species surveillance, control, and research activities
- **Recognize gaps** in invasive species knowledge and surveillance activities
- Multi-state and -county collaborations influenced by stakeholder priorities and needs



# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Website and printed educational materials
  - Educate public on invasive mosquito bionomics
  - Provide resources for mosquito control and public health agencies
- Workshop in dashboard capabilities including data management, analysis, and visualization techniques
  - Increased knowledge of on-line data management tools and the benefits of real-time data reporting





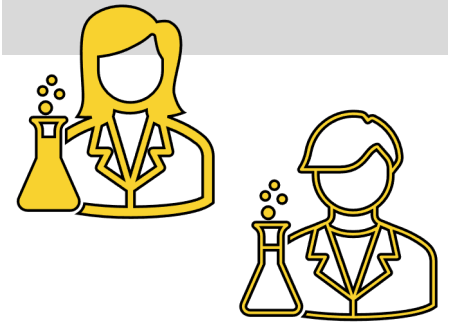
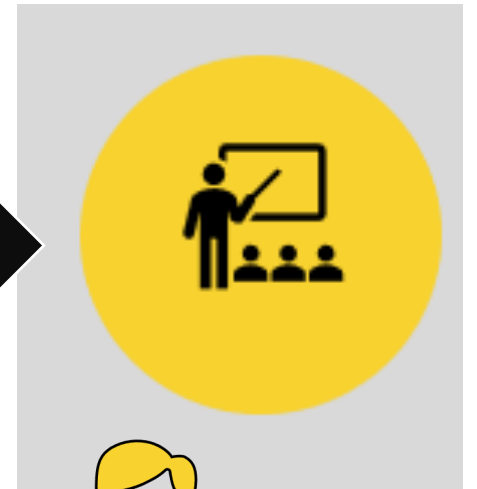
# SURVEILLANCE CAPACITY SURVEY

- Describe gaps and barriers to invasive species surveillance
- Summarize invasive species surveillance efforts across the Southern region
- Identify priority areas for improved surveillance regimes
- Results of the survey will inform about knowledge gaps and deficiencies in coordinated invasive species surveillance efforts

# OBJECTIVES 1&2

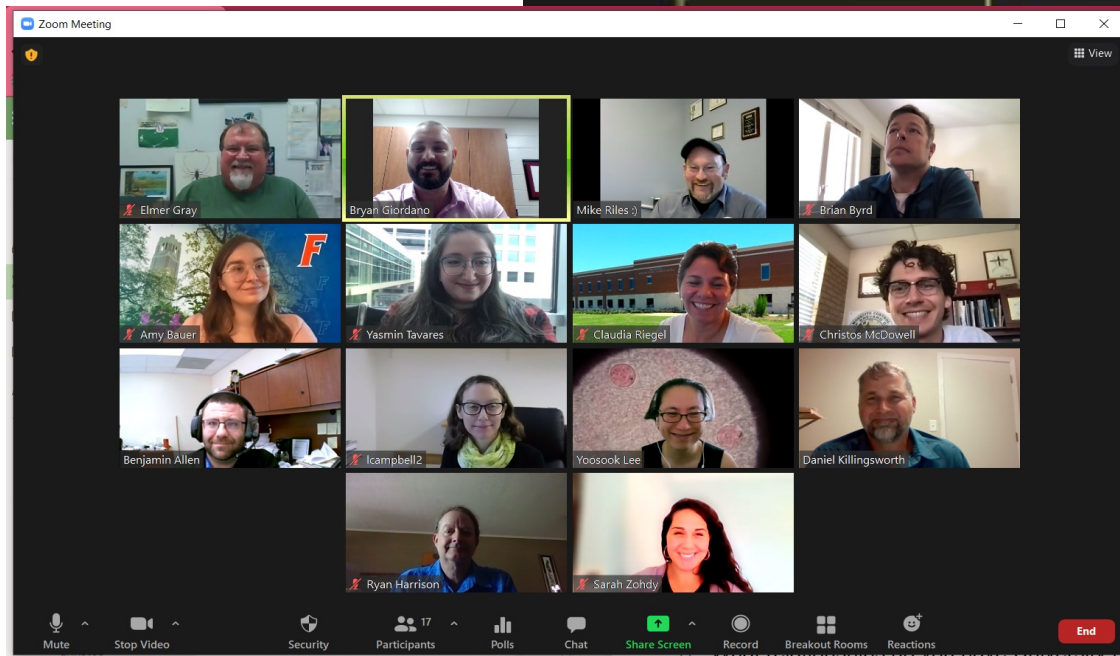
# TASK FORCES

# OBJECTIVE 3





# Stakeholder Meetings





# What is being done?

- Currently no national contingency plans in place for invasive mosquitoes
- Surveillance and control are regional or local
- Few programs share data or utilize database
- Training opportunities are sparse
- New discoveries are delayed by publication wait times
- Scientific publications / news stories often don't include key morphological characteristic required for identification



Which in  
turn means...

- Surveillance personnel don't know what to look out for
- Even once aware of the problem, finding information and updating identification is difficult
- Large lag-times between introduction and identification
- Unchecked range expansions.



# Surveillance Capacity Survey



**Participating States:**  
FL, NC, SC

AL, LA, MS, GA,



**No. Programs  
Contacted:**

323



**Total No.  
Responses:**

106

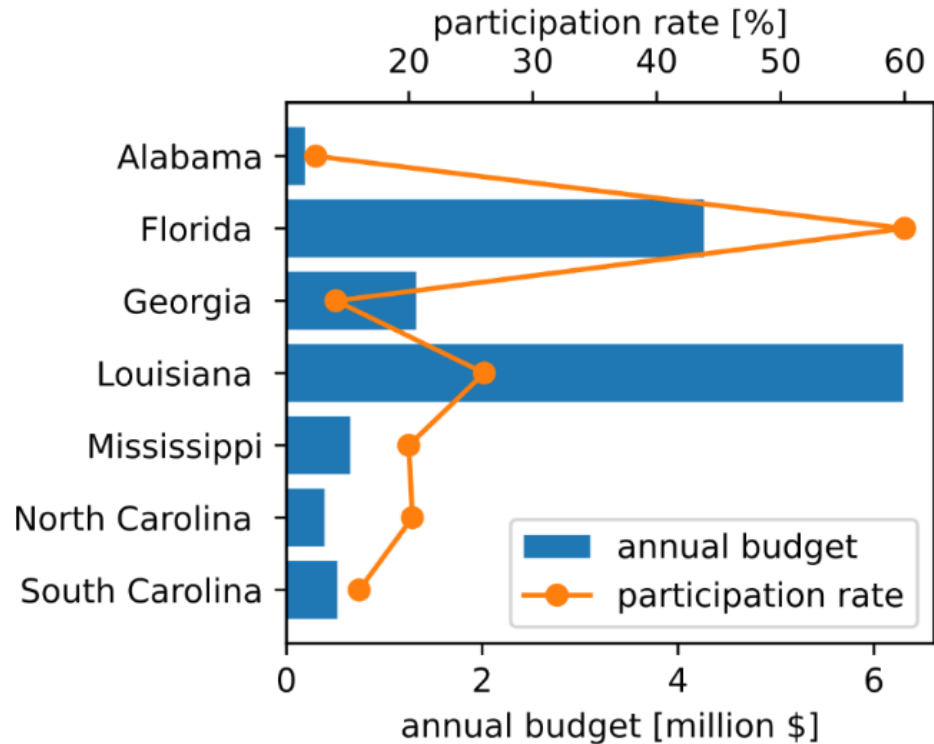
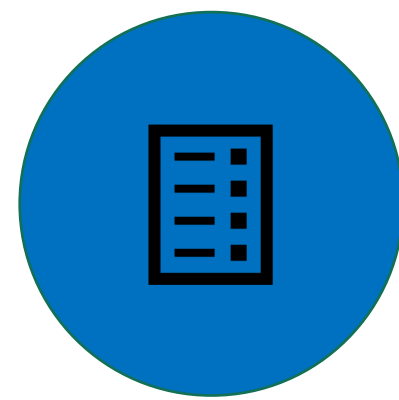


**Total No. Complete  
Responses:**

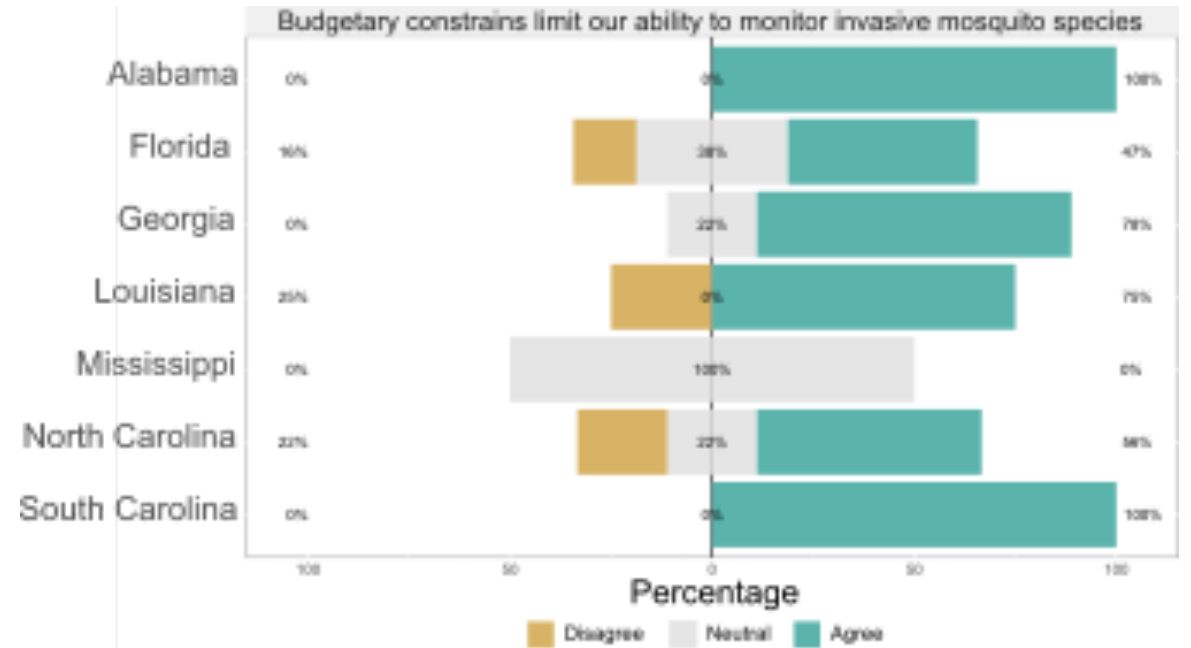
92

IRB Study Approval: 202101286

Q: What is your budget constraints to monitor non-native species

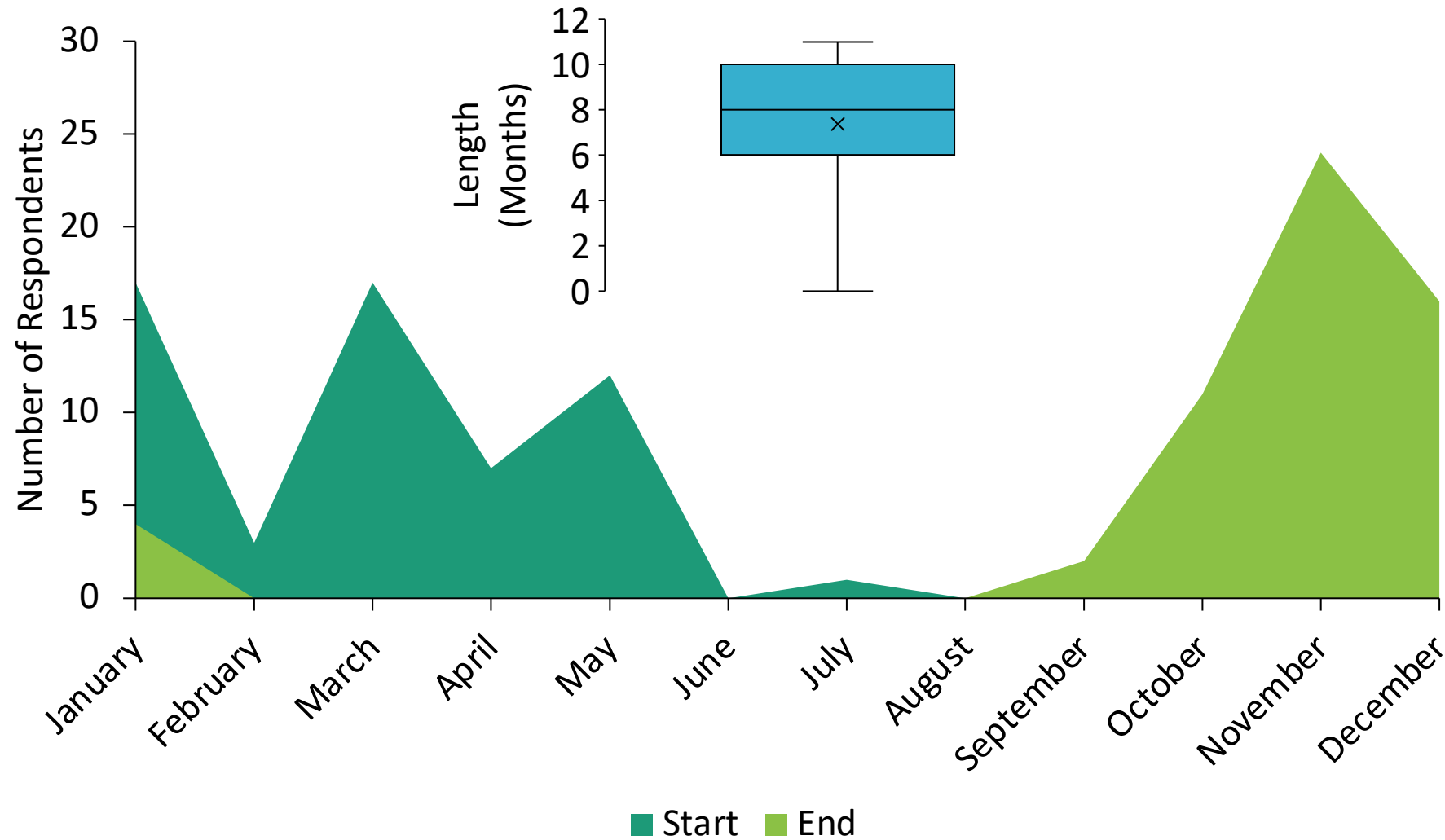
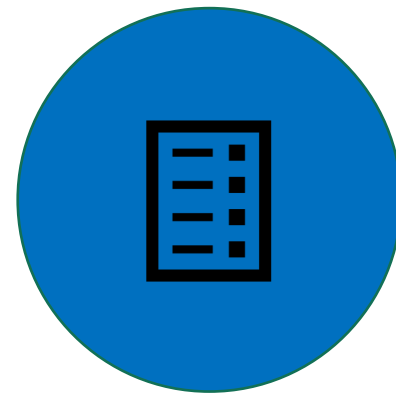


A: Average annual budget for mosquito surveillance and control programs by state (blue bar) and survey participation rate by state (orange line).



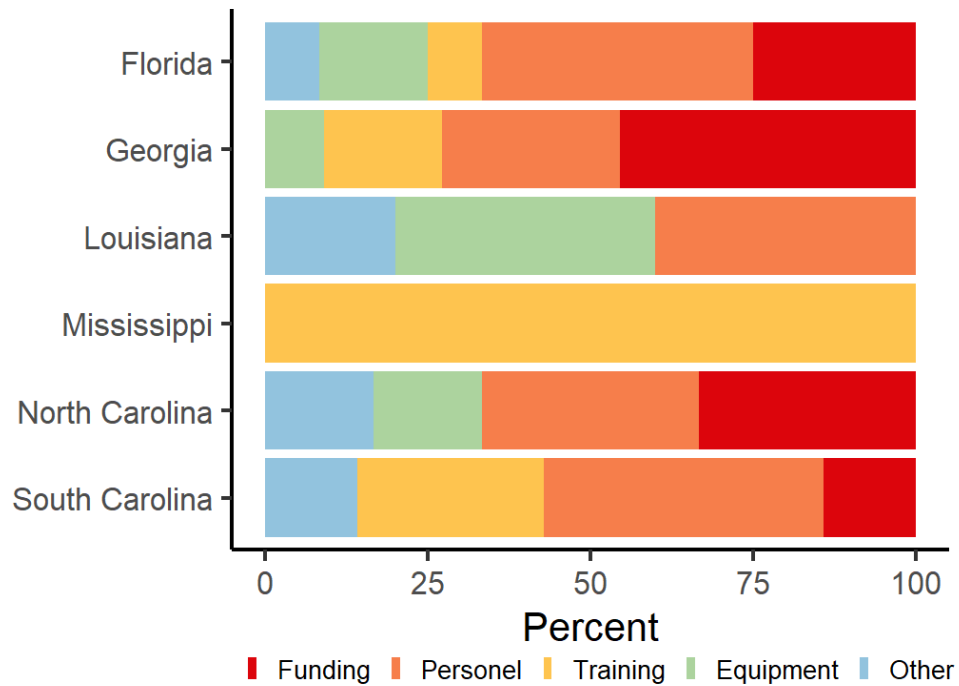
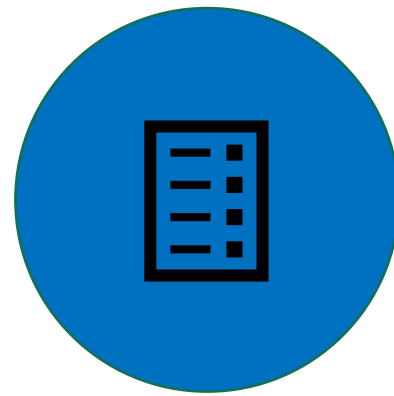
B: distribution of responses from states on if budgetary constraints limit their ability to monitor and control invasive mosquito species.

Q: Please indicate when your start and end surveillance

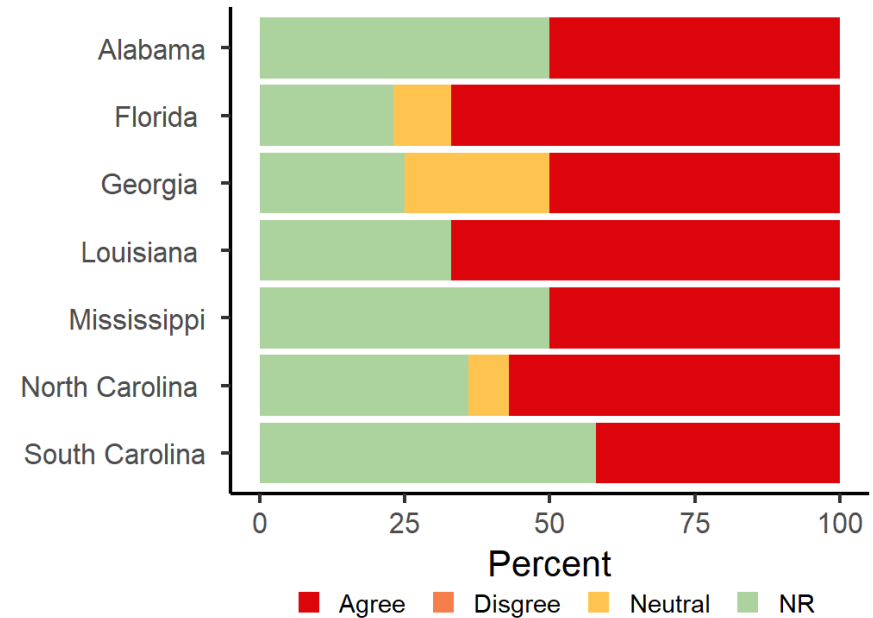




# Q: Collection Methods and Training



What programs indicated they need to improve their surveillance and control capacity



A proportion of responses to the statement of "My agency has access to mosquito traps required to monitor invasive mosquito species" by state.

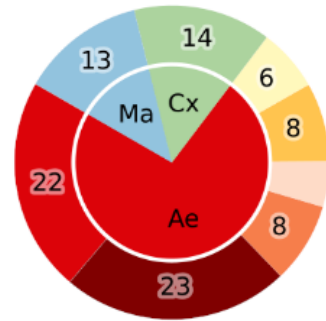
Q: Most important invasive species in the southern region by state



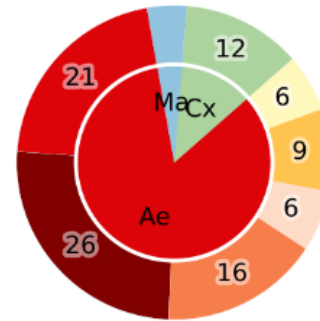
### Alabama



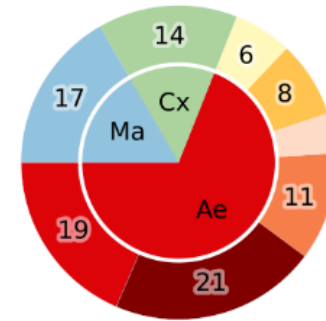
### Florida



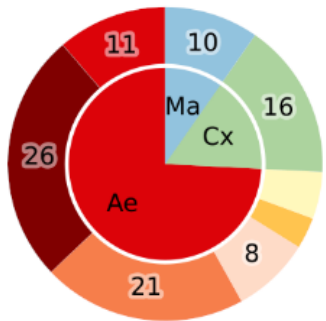
### Georgia



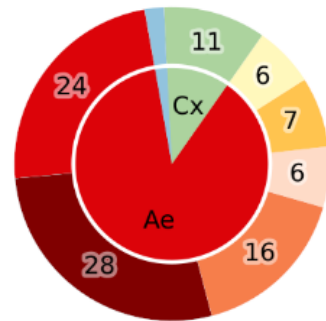
### Louisiana



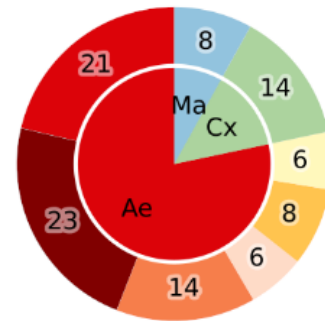
### Mississippi



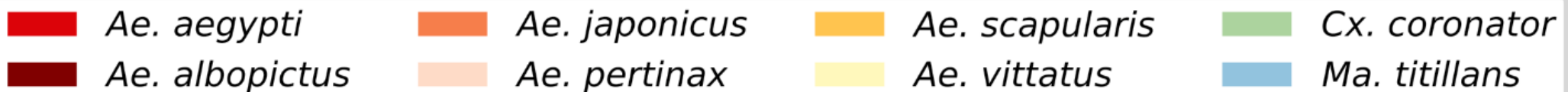
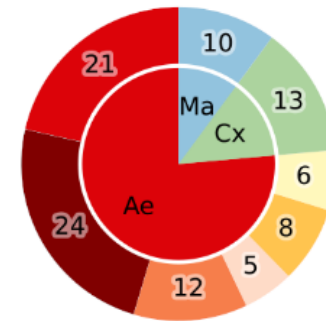
### North Carolina



### South Carolina

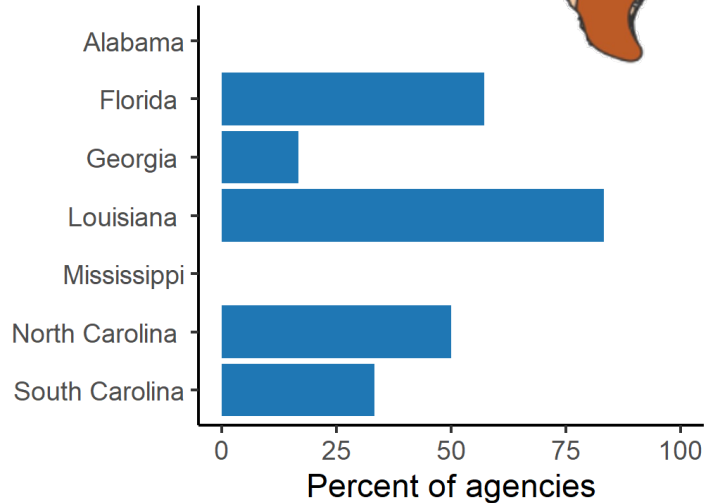
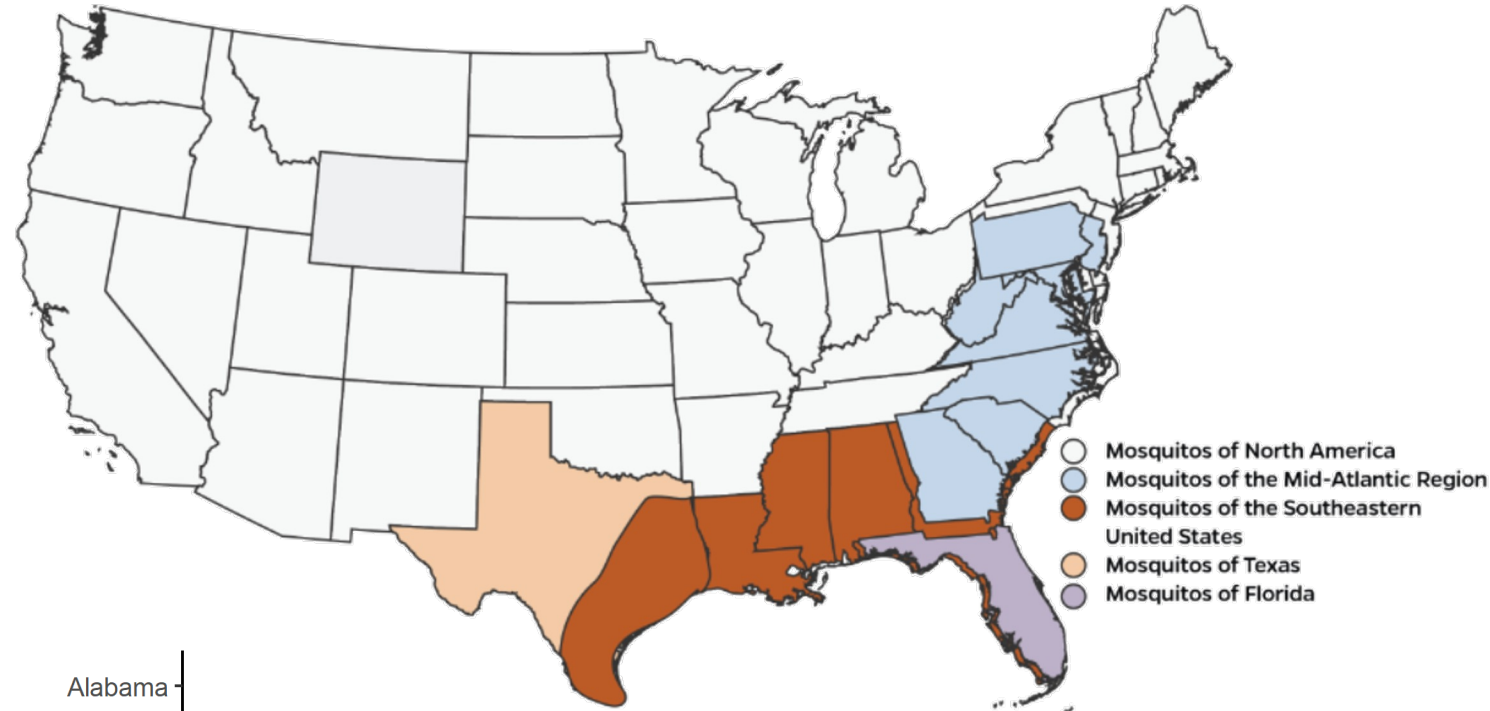


### Overall

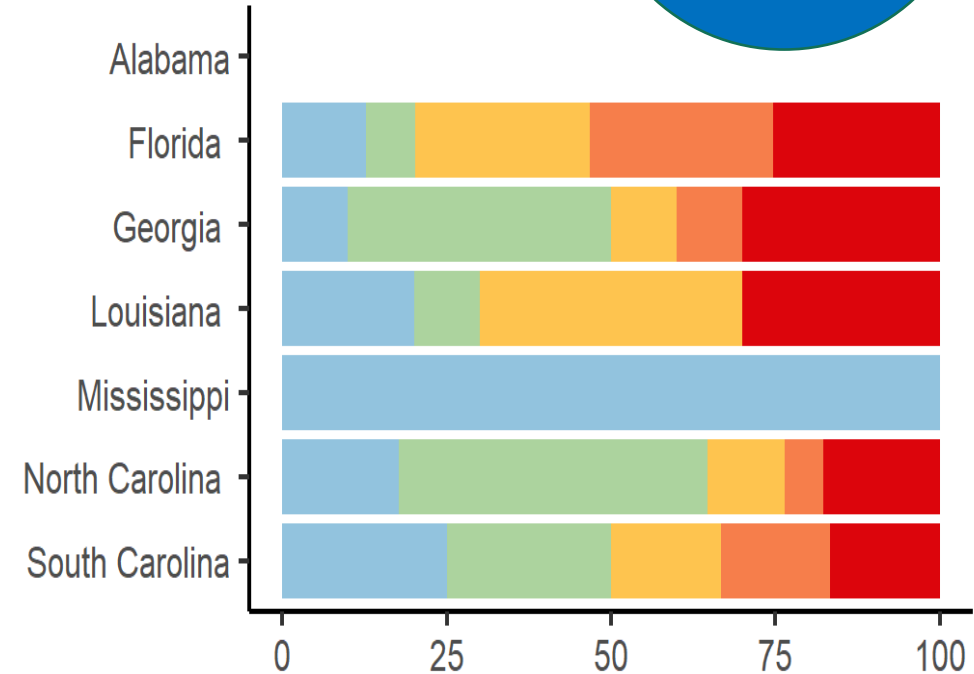
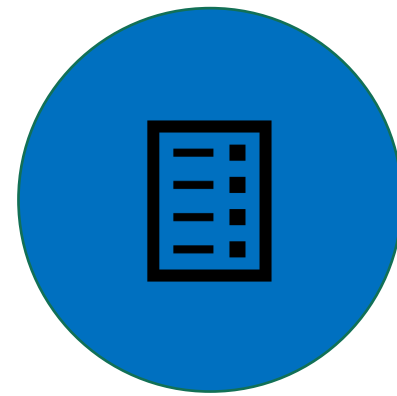


# MOSQUITO MORPHOLOGICAL IDENTIFICATION KEYS BY REGION

We have highlighted the geographic areas that pertain to the dichotomous keys listed below.



Percent of agencies in each state that have at least one expert mosquito identification specialist.



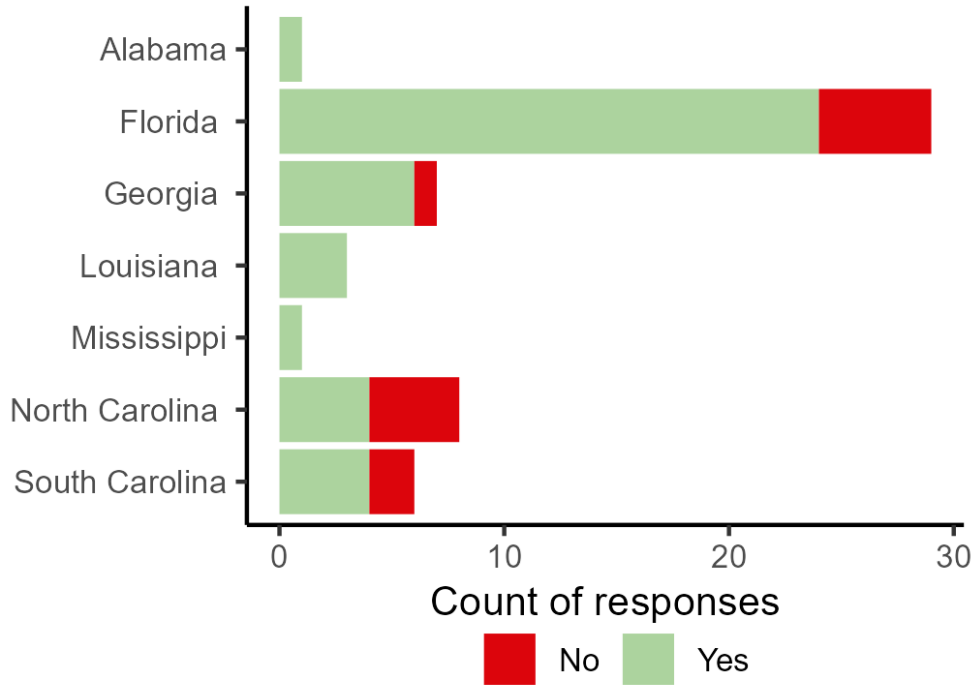
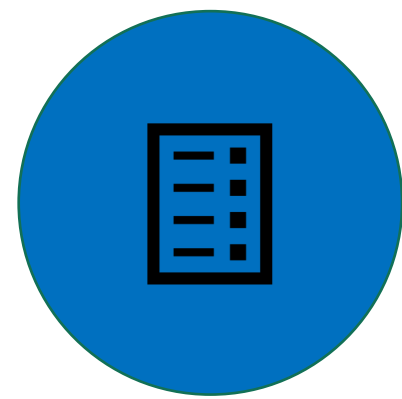
Percent

- Burkett-Cadena 2013
- Darsie and Morris 2003
- Darsie and Ward 2005
- Harrison et al. 2016
- Other sources

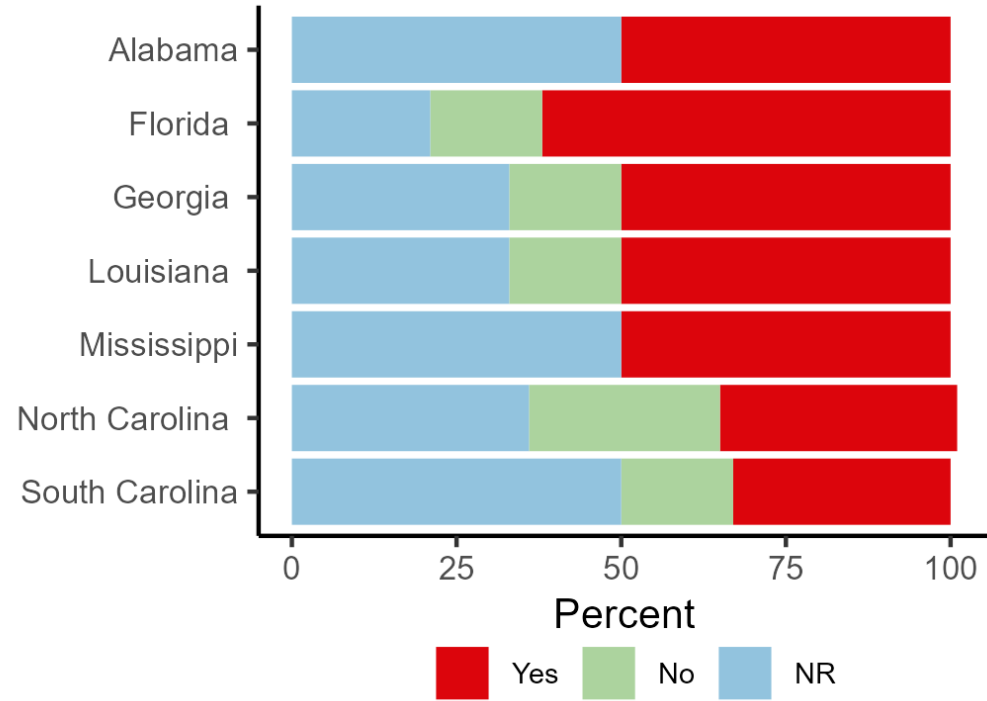
The proportion of each source used for mosquito identification in each state.



## Q: Information and data sharing

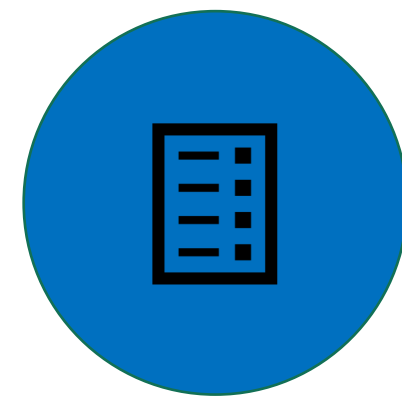


The distribution of responses indicating an importance of sharing data with neighboring or regional agencies and if they currently share data with neighboring or regional agencies.



Percent of agencies by state that share collection data with neighboring or regional agencies.

# Q: Port of Entry Surveillance?



26 of 90 (~29%) respondents serve a region with an active port, airport, or ground shipping yard

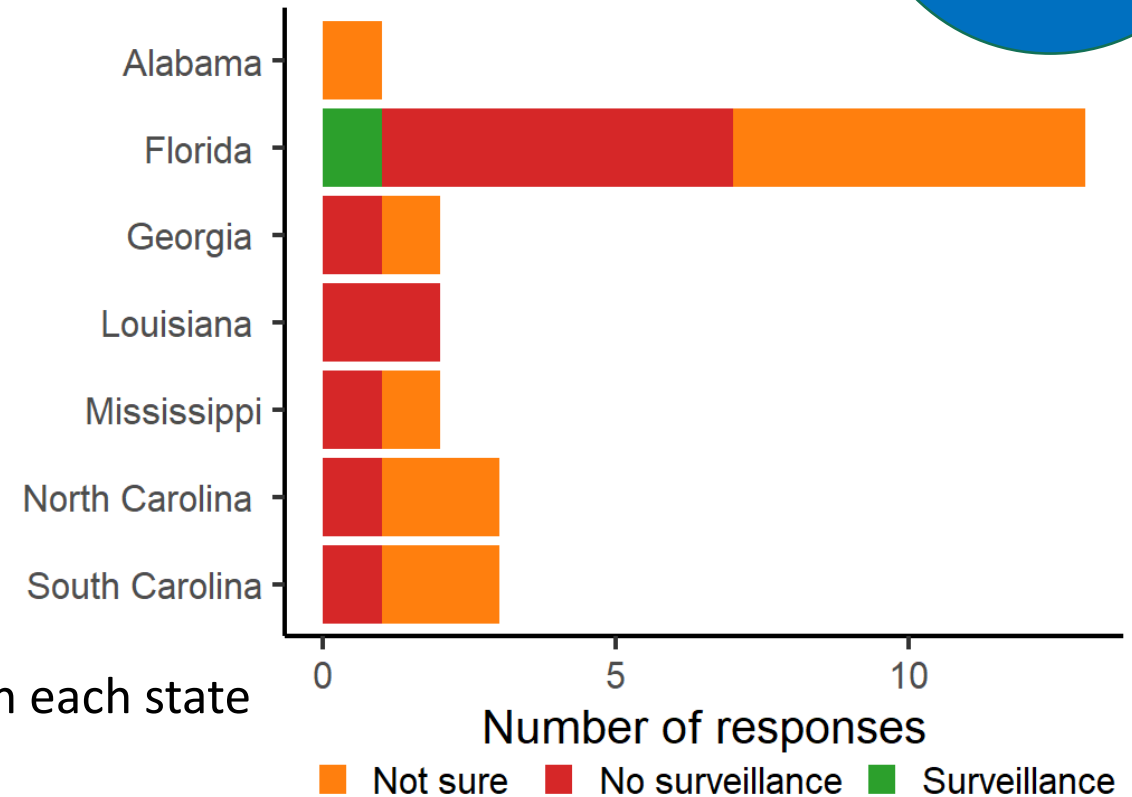
But only **7 programs** conduct surveillance in these areas

## Citing Reasons:

- Lack of communication
- Security clearance / jurisdiction
- Staffing / budget
- No reason or precedence to survey

The distribution of surveillance at port authorities within each state indicating whether it is:

- Unsure of the status of surveillance: (Not sure)
- No surveillance occurs at the port authority: (No surveillance)
- Surveillance occurs at the port authority: (Surveillance)





# Suggested protocol (minimum standard) for port surveillance (professional perspective)



GOAL: SYSTEMATIC AND CONSISTENT SURVEILLANCE INSIDE PORT AUTHORITIES



STAGE 1. SURVEILLANCE OUTSIDE (SURROUNDING) OF PORT AUTHORITIES



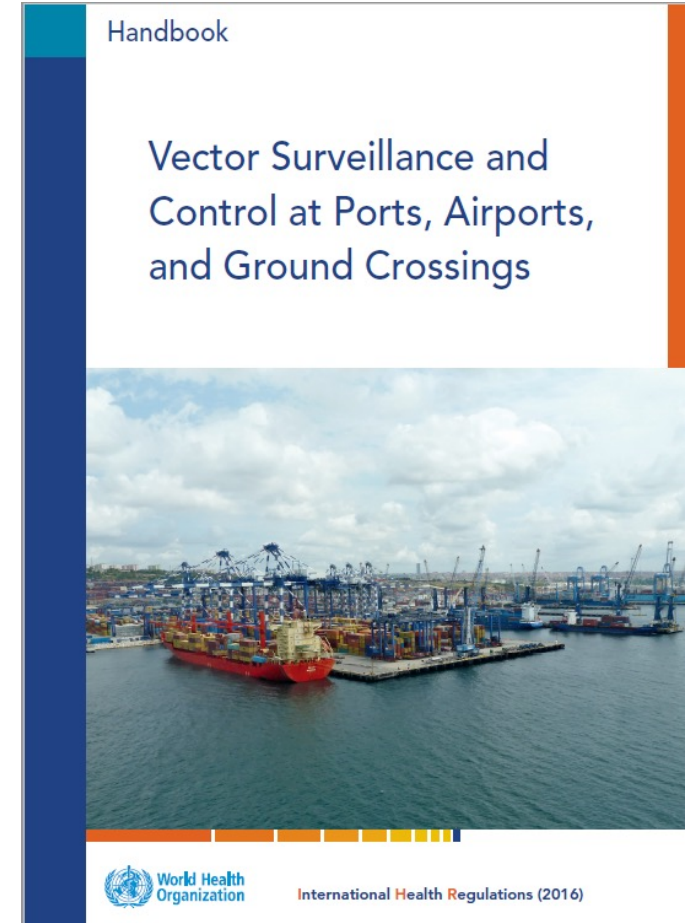
STAGE 2: ESTABLISH CONNECTION WITH PORT AUTHORITY

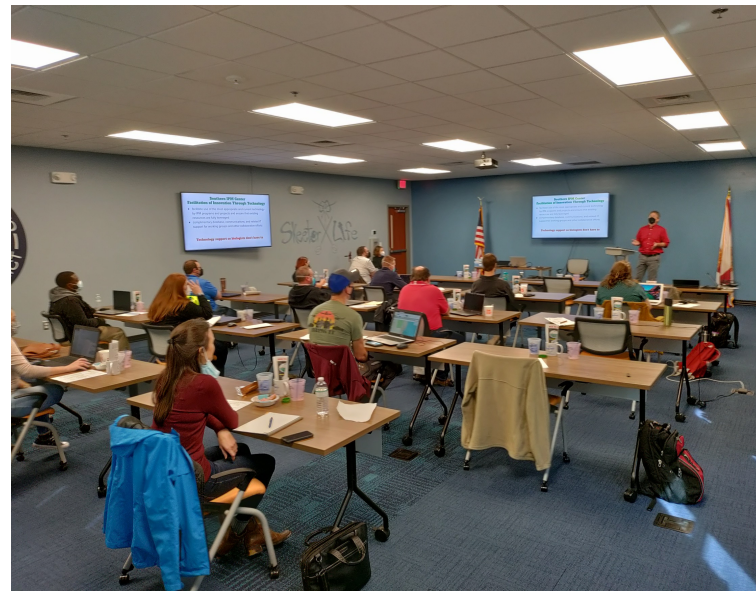


STAGE 3: SURVEILLANCE INSIDE PORT AUTHORITIES



STAGE 4: DATA SHARING WITH LOCAL MOSQUITO CONTROL AUTHORITY

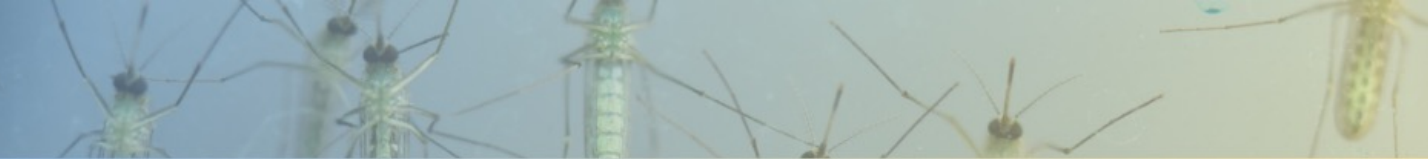












# Advanced Mosquito Identification Course

## New Orleans, Louisiana

# Meeting Agenda



**Register Now:**  
<https://forms.office.com/g/i6Epqr2Er1>

**Cost:** \$150  
 (Lunch Included)  
**Questions:**  
 Alex Pavlakis  
 Alexandros.pavlakis@nola.gov  
 504-607-2361

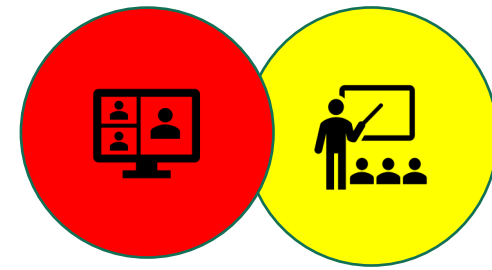
### September 11:

- 1:00 - 1:15 Welcome, Introduction, & Opening Survey
- 1:15 - 1:45 Mosquito Biology
- 1:45 - 2:30 Vector-Borne Diseases
- 2:30 - 3:30 Species Identification via Genetic Analysis
- 3:30 - 5:30 QGIS for Vector Control Operations
- 5:30 - 5:45 Closing Remarks & Dismissal

### September 12:

- 8:00 - 8:15 Welcome & Daily Agenda
- 8:15 - 8:45 Genus Identification
- 8:45 - 9:00 Mounted Mosquito Samples Workshop
- 9:00 - 10:00 Common Species of the Gulf South Identification
- 10:00 - 10:15 Break
- 10:15 - 11:30 Common Species of the Gulf South Identification
- 11:30 - 12:00 Lunch
- 12:00 - 12:45 Common Species of the Gulf South Identification
- 12:45 - 3:45 Invasive Mosquito Species Identification
- 3:45 - 4:15 Operational Integrated Mosquito Management
- 4:15 - 4:30 Closing Remarks & Dismissal

Please note: Daily schedules are subject to change. Changes may occur up until the week of the meeting.

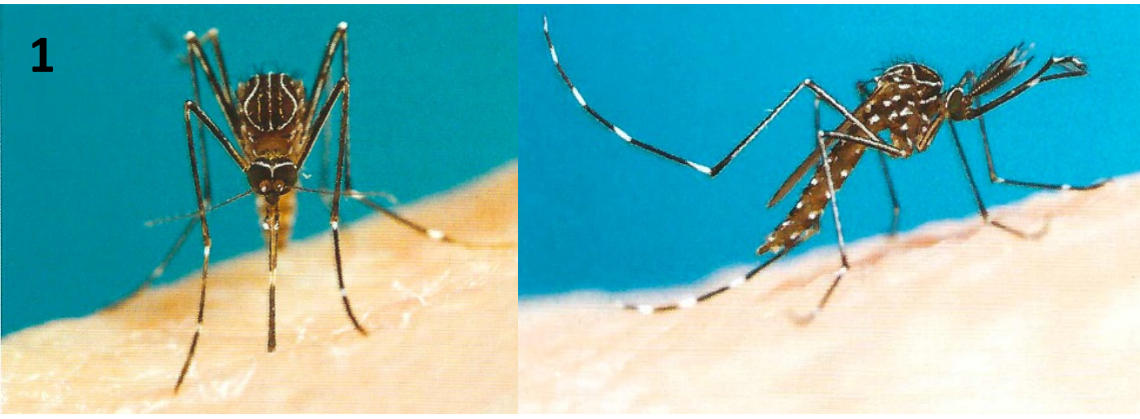


Collaboration with the CDC Center for Excellence NOLA

September 11-12, 2023, New Orleans  
 October 22-23, 2023, Dallas TX  
 Alabama/ Mississippi TBA in 2024  
 Future workshop in Virginia Spring 2025 ??



# *Aedes notoscriptus*



1. Female & Male Small to mid-sized species; Integument can vary in color from reddish brown to dark brown to black

2. Fe-II and Ti-III with anterior lines of pale scales along nearly whole length  
Hind tarsi with wide bands bright silvery whitish scales

3. Proboscis dark-scaled with median pale ring  
Wings scales all dark dorsally

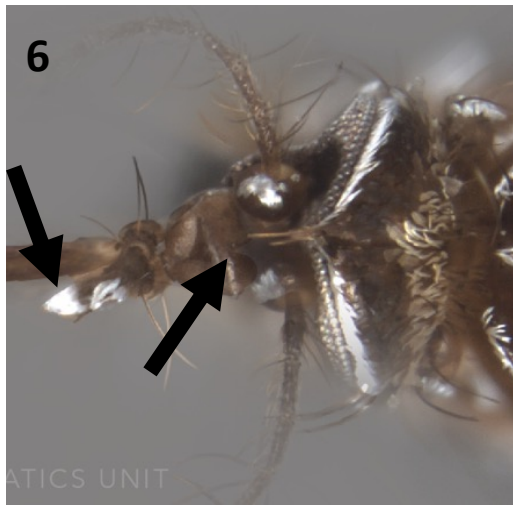
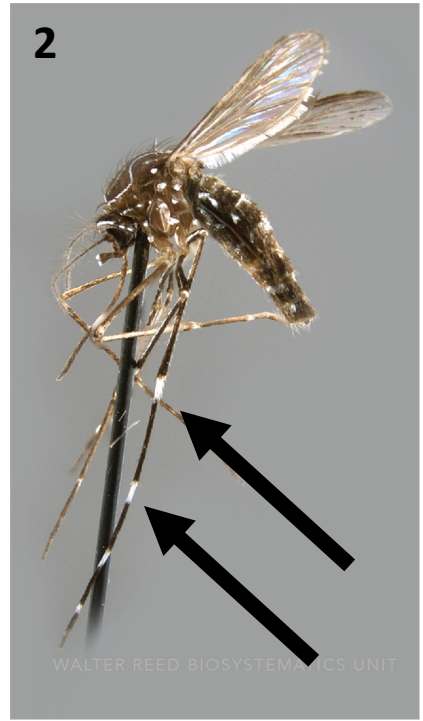
4. Scutum with lyre-shaped lateral silvery lines

- Narrow median silvery lines and anterior sublateral golden lines of scales
- Postpronotum with small distinct lower patch of silvery scales

5. Small patches of silvery scales throughout thoracic area

6. Pedicle not scaled exteriorly only interiorly. Palps tipped with silvery scales

7. Terminal segments Larvae: Comb scales in irregular triangular patch; siphon not pilose; siphonal acus large and broadly joined to siphon; seta 1-S short, <0.5 x length of siphon



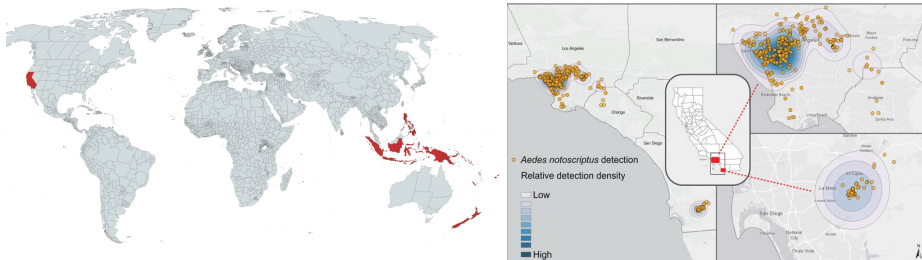


# Aedes notoscriptus

## Native Range



## Invasive Range



- Established in New Zealand around 1920
- Migrated north into South-east Asia & South Pacific Islands
- Established in 3 counties in southern California 2014-present time
- Cryptic in morphology regionally suggesting a diverse phenotypic morphologic complex

## Larval Habitat



- Wide range of artificial & natural containers
- Bamboo stumps, leaf axils, rock pools, palm fronds
- Containers made of wood, concrete, plastic and metal

## Dispersal Strategies

- Container breeders that use diapausing eggs
- Spread by humans along shipping routes

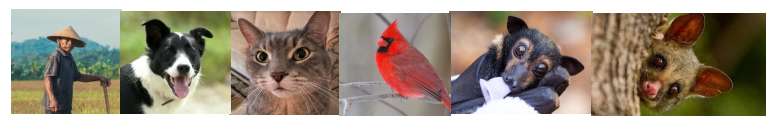
## Collection Methods



- CDC trap with CO2 and Octenol or BG Lure
- BG Sentinel
- Autocidal Gravid Traps
- Gravid Traps

## Host Biting Preference

- Humans, domestic pets, birds, marsupials, bats



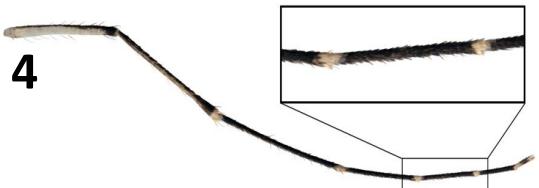
## Pathogen Transmission

- Barmah Forest Virus
- Chikungunya virus (CHIKV)
- Dengue virus (DENV)
- Ross River Virus
- Zika (ZIKV)
- *Dirofilaria* (dog heartworm parasite)

# *Culex coronator*



1. The adult mosquito is medium sized, drab and brownish



2. The head has dark erected forked scales dorsally. The occiput has narrow golden scales and broad white scales laterally. The proboscis is mostly covered in dark scales, with a ventral median area of pale scales that does not form a complete ring (arrow)

3. The veins of the wings are covered in narrow dark scales



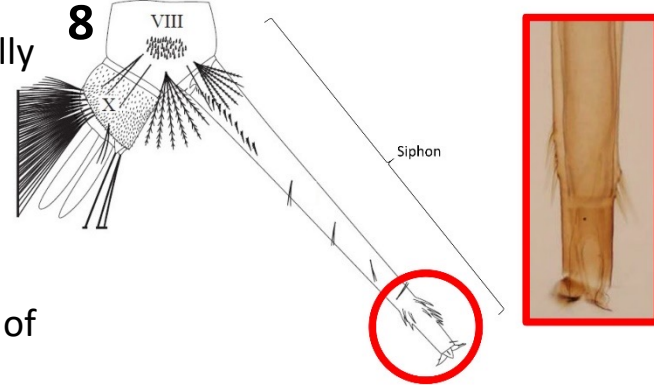
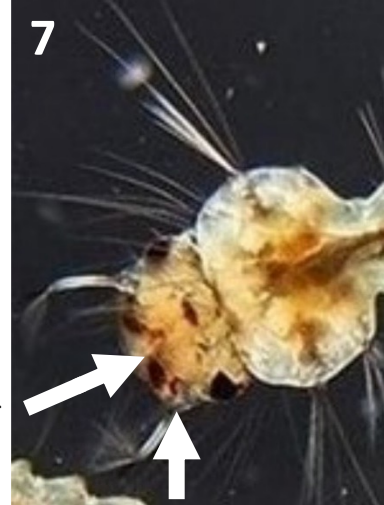
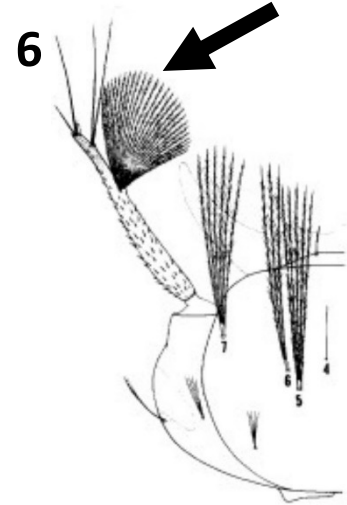
4. The hind tarsomeres on the legs are ringed with distinct basal and apical bands

5. Immature four instar larva

6. The antennal turf of the head is located on a constriction near the outer third (arrow), with the shaft spiculated basally

7. The larva head has 4 or 5 upper hairs and 3 or 4 lower hairs

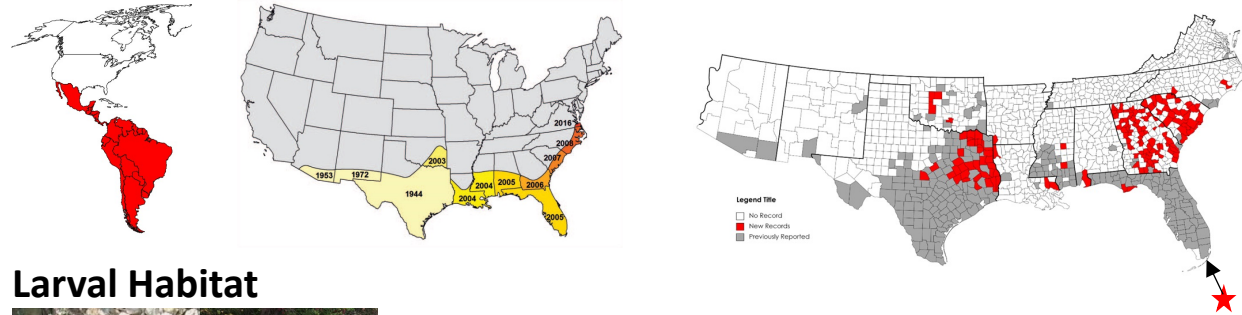
8. The siphon is long and thin with four double siphonal turfs beyond the pecten. Most specimens have a crown of prominent spines.





# Culex coronator

## Native (Red) and Invasive (other colors) Range



## Larval Habitat



- Lay rafts of eggs in diverse natural and artificial microhabitats
- Natural habitats: swales, roadside ditches, animal water troughs, forest ponds, and rock pools
- Artificial water-holding containers: trash cans, car tires

## Dispersal Strategies

- Highly adaptable to artificial container breeding in urban areas
- Eggs and larvae commonly found in used tires
- Car tire transportation is thought to be an important dispersal mechanism

## Collection Methods



- CDC light traps
- Biogents Sentinel traps
- Gravid traps
- Larval surveys

## Host Biting Preference

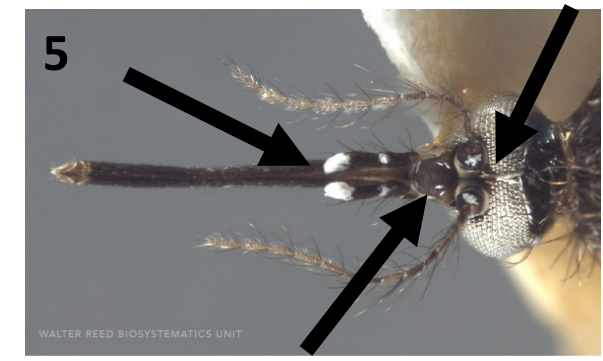
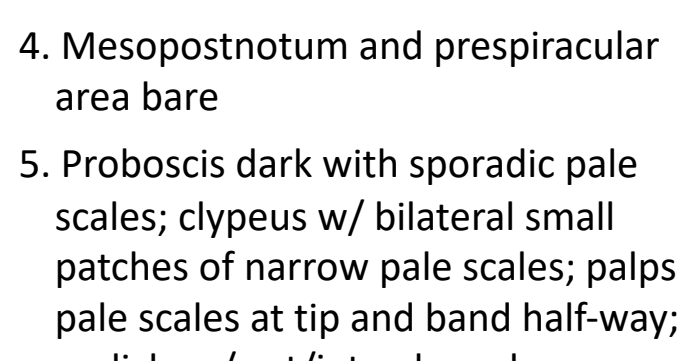
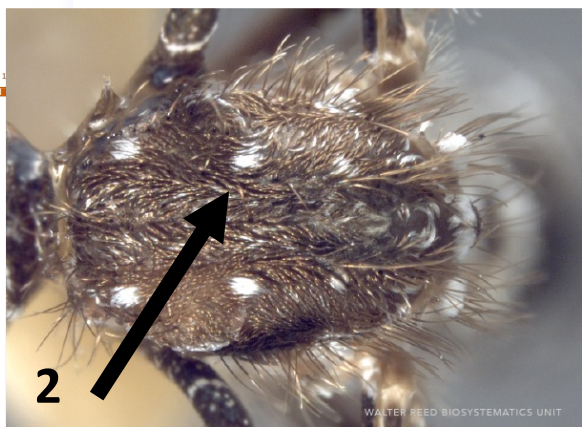
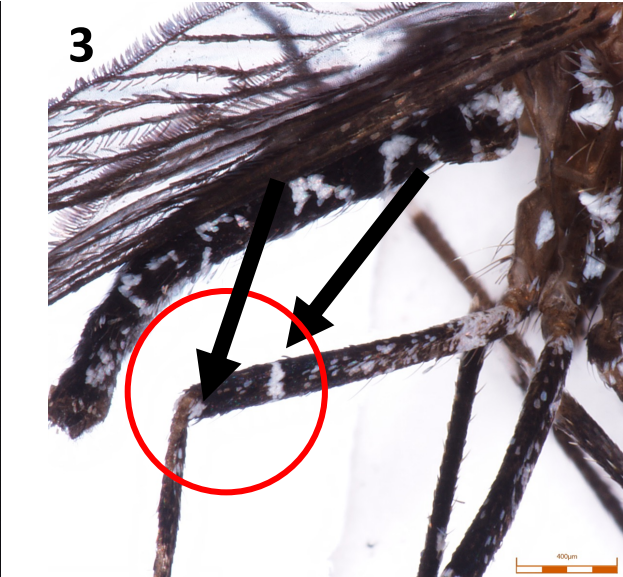
- Predominantly nocturnal
- Blood feed primary upon large mammals such as white-tailed deer and horses
- Opportunistically feed on birds
- Will also bite humans



## Pathogen Transmission

- St Louis encephalitis virus (Aitken et al. 1964, Turell et al. 2005)
- Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus (Burguete et al. 1973)
- West Nile virus (Mackay 2007, Kelly et al. 2008, Unlu et al. 2010)
- Zika virus (rare, Elizondo-Quiroga et al. 2018)

# *Aedes vittatus*



1. Small to medium dark scaled species with pale scales throughout
2. Scutum: 3 pairs of distinct, small, white spots of narrow scales on anterior two-thirds of scutum
3. Tibia dark, with sub-basal white spot and white band approximately level with basal third of Ti-I, Ti-II, and at mid-point of Ti-III

4. Mesopostnotum and prespiracular area bare
5. Proboscis dark with sporadic pale scales; clypeus w/ bilateral small patches of narrow pale scales; palps pale scales at tip and band half-way; pedicle w/ ext/int pale scales
6. Abdomen Te-I large median white spot; basal white bands w/ lateral curved white markings: disparate from bands

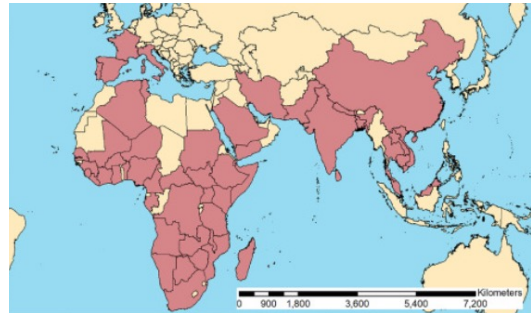




# *Aedes vittatus*



## Native Range



## Invasive Range (as of 2021)



## Larval Habitat



Variety of natural and artificial containers:

- rock pools
- tree holes
- hoofprints
- domestic containers

## Dispersal Strategies

- Egg desiccation tolerance
- Caribbean introductions are speculated to have occurred via shipping container transport to and between islands

## Collection Methods



- Like other invasive *Aedes* they are not commonly collected using CDC light traps
- Surveying potential production sites (artificial and manmade containers) is necessary
- More surveillance data in invasive range (Caribbean) is needed to predict production sites in North America

## Host Biting Preference

- Opportunistic feeders:
  - Non-Human Primates
  - Domestic Animals
  - Rodents
  - Humans
  - Bats
  - Birds



## Pathogen Transmission

- Babanki virus
- Bunyamwera virus
- Chikungunya virus
- Dengue viruses
- Middleburg virus
- Semliki Forest virus
- Saboya virus
- Wesselsbron virus
- Yellow Fever virus
- Zika virus

# *Aedes aegypti* (the yellow fever mosquito)

&

# *Aedes albopictus* (the Asian tiger mosquito)

Designed by Irla Burgielowski

## Aedes biology and vector status

*Aedes aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* are the main vectors of dengue, chikungunya, Zika and yellow fever viruses. These are referred to as 'arboviruses' (arthropod-borne viruses). More than half the world's population is at risk of contracting mosquito-borne diseases.

These mosquitoes are often found in rural and urban settings in tropical, subtropical, and temperate regions throughout the world. They bite during the day, with the most active feeding period 2 hours before and after dawn / dusk. Only the female mosquitoes bite, using the blood as an energy source to produce eggs. The males feed on nectar.

Both *Aedes* species have distinct white banding on their legs. However, they can be readily distinguished by the patterns on their thoraxes. *Aedes aegypti* has a lyre pattern on its thorax, while *Aedes albopictus* has a single stripe.



*Aedes aegypti* thorax



*Aedes albopictus* thorax



C. An infected female passes on the virus in its saliva when it bites.

D. The newly inoculated person may have symptoms after 2-7 days of infection, during which time the virus replicates in the host and spreads through the blood.

B. It requires an 8-12 day incubation period before the mosquito can transmit the virus to another person, during which time the virus replicates in the mosquito and travels to its salivary glands.

A. When a mosquito bites an infected person, it takes up viruses in its blood meal.

## Virus cycle

1. Roof guttering
2. Plants: vases, traps, leaf axils
3. Tires
4. Bottles / cans
5. Tet dishes
6. Laundry tanks / cisterns
7. Buckets / containers
8. Garden tools
9. Drums / barrels

## Breeding sites

## Life cycle

- a) Females lay up to 100 eggs (in several batches; skip oviposition) per cycle. They oviposit on moist walls of water-filled containers. Eggs look like black dirt and can survive drying out for up to 8 months.
- b) Larvae emerge from the eggs after the water level rises to cover the eggs. The larvae feed on detritus and microorganisms in the water.
- c) After molting 4 times, the larva pupate
- d) Adult mosquitoes emerge from pupae after two days.
- e) After blood feeding, mated females will look for water sources to lay their eggs.

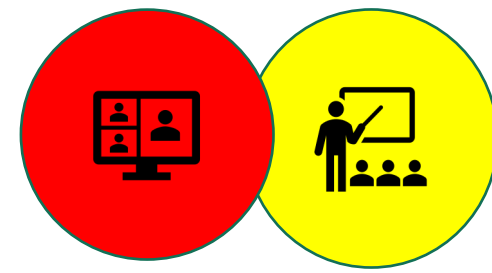
## How to prevent mosquito-borne diseases

- No vaccines are available to prevent dengue, chikungunya or Zika. Therefore, avoiding infection by preventing mosquito bites is the best option thus far.
- Take steps to control mosquitoes inside and outside of your home:
    - Reduce breeding sites by removing objects that can accumulate water
    - Keep trash cans, water barrels, etc. sealed
    - Remove debris from gutters
    - To kill mosquito eggs, wash containers used to store water weekly (with brush and soap)
  - Use insect repellent with proven active ingredients such as DEET, Icaridin, or oil of lemon / eucalyptus to prevent mosquito bites.



Container inhabiting *Aedes*  
Info posters!!

Combined species  
Single species  
In Spanish



## Other Stakeholder Engagement

November 2022 FMCA BEACONS Poster Presentation

Jan 2023 MAMCA Dr. Ben Allen Presented

Feb 2023 VMCA MT Riles Presented

March 2023 AMCA Reno NV Poster Presentation MT Riles

- Booth Collaboration with Ento Exchange & Dan Killingsworth

May 2023 Survey of Invasive Mosquito Species in the southern US Yoosook Lee

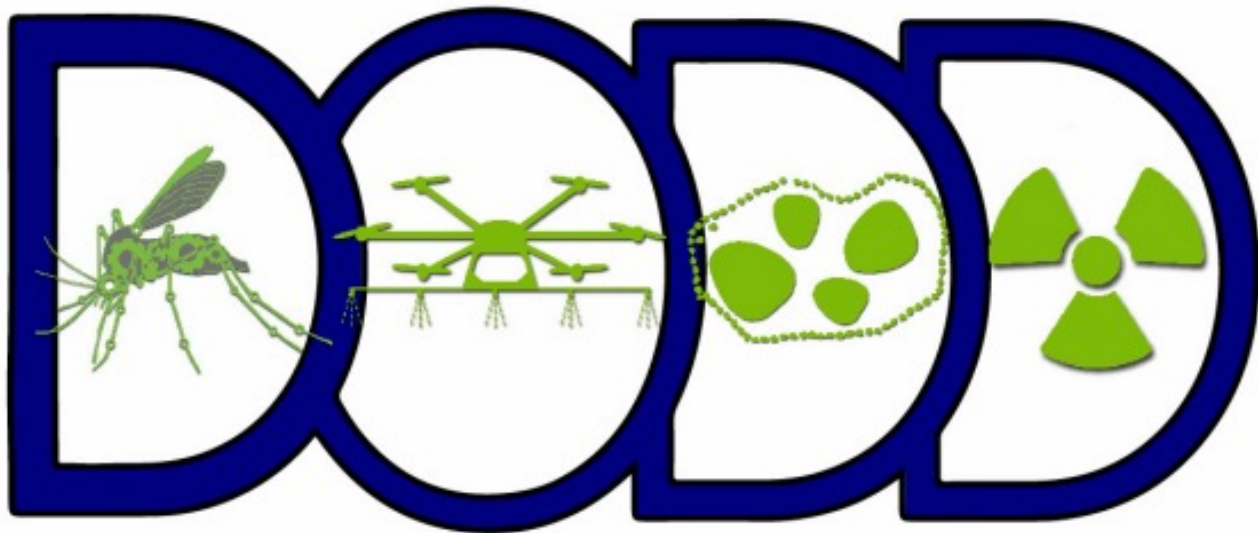
May 2023 Year 3 Q1 Stakeholder Meeting Zoom 😊

June 2023 BEACONS Meet w/ CDC and SIMPC IPM Strategy *Anopheles*

December 2023 BEACONS Year 3 Q2 Stakeholder Meeting



Submitted 1 Full Day Advanced Identification Course for Dodds Short Courses  
January 29 through February 2  
MT Riles & Dr. B Girodano



# Developing a low-cost mosquito trap to improve detection of invasive mosquitoes in the southeastern USA

PI's Lee, Bryd and Campbell  
Killingsworth and Allen  
Awarded in 2023  
USDA-NIFA-CPPM-009483

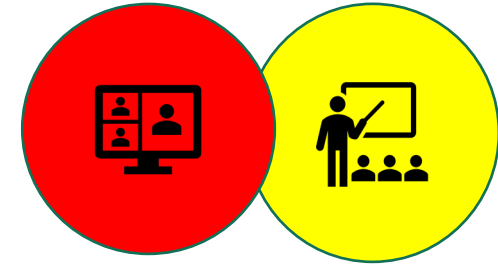


Figure 6. Proposed study sites for novel trap design evaluations (black circle).





Mosquito BEACONS  
Working Group

# Disseminating the information gathered

## Published works

Seok S, Kim Z, Nguyen VT, Lee Y. The potential invasion into North America and Europe by non-native mosquito *Aedes koreicus* (Diptera: Culicidae). J Med Entomol. \*\*\* Accepted \*\*\*

Nguyen VT, Romero-Weaver AL, Wang X, Tavares Y, Bauer A, McDowell RC, Dorsainvil C, Eason MD, Malcolm AN, Raz CD, Byrd BD, Riegel C, Clark M, Ber J, Harrison R, Evans C, Zohdy S, Allen B, Campbell LP, Killingsworth D, Grey EW, Riles M, Lee Y, Giordano BV. Survey of mosquito surveillance and control capacity in the southern United States reveals training gaps and resource needs. J Am Mosquito Cntrl Assoc. 2023. 39 (2): 108–121. doi: [10.2987/22-7107](https://doi.org/10.2987/22-7107).

Kondapaneni, R.; Malcolm, A.N.; Vazquez, B.M.; Zeng, E.; Chen, T.-Y.; Kosinski, K.J.; Romero-Weaver, A.L.; Giordano, B.V.; Allen, B.; Riles, M.T.; et al. Mosquito Control Priorities in Florida—Survey Results from Florida Mosquito Control Districts. Pathogens. 2021, 10, 947, doi:[10.3390/pathogens10080947](https://doi.org/10.3390/pathogens10080947). PMID: PMC8401384.

Giordano BV, Cruz A, Pérez-Ramos DW, Ramos MM, Tavares Y, Caragata EP. Mosquito communities vary across landscape and vertical strata in Indian River County, Florida. Pathogens. 2021, 10, 1575. <https://doi.org/10.3390/pathogens10121575>. PMID: PMC8708810.

Seok S, Jacobsen CM, Romero-Weaver AL, Wang Xiaodi, Nguyen VT, Collier TC, Riles MT, Akbari OS, Lee Y. Complete mitogenome sequence of *Aedes (Hulecoeteomyia) japonicus japonicus* from Hawai'i Island. Mitochondrial DNA Part B Resour. 8:1, 64-68, DOI: [1080/23802359.2022.2161328](https://doi.org/1080/23802359.2022.2161328)

Romero-Weaver AL, Reeves LE, Riles MT, Lee Y, Giordano BV. [A concise guide on the bionomics and key morphological characteristics for identifying \*Culex coronator\* \(Dyar & Knab, 1906\) – an invasive mosquito species from neotropics](#). EDIS, 2022, University of Florida. ENY-2093. DOI: [doi.org/10.32473/edis-IN1385-2023](https://doi.org/10.32473/edis-IN1385-2023)

Romero-Weaver AL, Riles MT, Sloyer K, Lee Y, Campbell LP, Giordano BV. A concise guide on the bionomics and key morphological characteristics for identifying *Aedes pertinax* (Grabham, 1906) – an invasive mosquito species from neotropics. Ask IFAS. ENY2100 DOI: [doi.org/10.32473/edis-IN1405-2023](https://doi.org/10.32473/edis-IN1405-2023)

# Thanks to our Funders



# Participating Agencies

Beach Mosquito Control District

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Charleston County Mosquito Control District

South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control

City of Jacksonville Mosquito Control

Collier County Mosquito Control

Environmental Security Pest and Lawn

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Florida Mosquito Control Association

Georgia Department of Public Health

Georgia Mosquito Control Association

Virginia Mosquito Control Association

Louisiana Mosquito Control Association

New Orleans Mosquito & Termite Control Board

North Carolina Mosquito and Vector Control Association

University of Florida

University of Georgia

University of South Florida

University of Southern Mississippi

Western Carolina University

Texas A&M University  
Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit  
University of South Florida



Questions?