

***Aedes aegypti*, yellow fever mosquito**

cellular organisms - Eukaryota - Fungi/Metazoa group - Metazoa - Eumetazoa - Bilateria - Coelomata - Protostomia - Panarthropoda - Arthropoda - Mandibulata - Pancrustacea - Hexapoda - Insecta - Dicondylia - Pterygota - Neoptera - Endopterygota - Diptera - Nematocera - Culicimorpha - Culicoidea - Culicidae - Culicinae - Culicini - *Aedes/Ochlerotatus* group - *Aedes* - *Stegomyia* - *Aedes aegypti*

Brief facts

- *Aedes aegypti* is a smallish, dark mosquito with conspicuous white markings and banded legs.
- Most frequently found in the tropics on all continents, *Aedes aegypti* historically is considered to be a primary vector of devastating viral diseases such as the Dengue fever, Chikungunya and yellow fever.
- The *Aedes aegypti* is a day biting mosquito. This species is most active for approximately two hours after sunrise and several hours before sunset. After the mosquito feeds on a virus-carrier, the virus starts to replicate in the mosquito. After eight to 12 days incubation period the mosquito can transmit the virus on subsequent feeding attempts (several times per day is not uncommon) depending on the availability of the host. Feeding generally occurs at one to two hour intervals. The *A. aegypti* is adapted to breed around human dwellings and prefers to lay its eggs in clean water free of other organisms. Artificial or natural water containers (water storage containers, flower pots, old tires, etc.) that are

within or close to places where humans live are ideally larval habitats for the *A. aegypti*.

- *Aedes* mosquitos are competent to transmit **heartworms**. **Detailed information about ubiquitous parasites - heartworms, *Dirofilaria immitis* at MetaPathogen.**

Life cycle of *A. aegypti*

Life Cycle Stages

Life cycle can be completed in 1.5-3 weeks.

- **egg**

the eggs of most species are laid together in a raft form, but *Aedes* female lays her eggs separately thus allowing them to spread over large surfaces of water if conditions permit, this way the eggs stand a better chance of survival; eggs can survive for very long periods in a dry state, often for more than a year; if the egg contains the viruses, they are preserved too

- **embryo**

- **hatching**

- **larval MeSH**

all larval stages are aquatic; collectively they take a minimum of 4 days to complete

- **1st instar larva**

- **1st molting**

- **2nd instar larva**

- 2nd molting
- 3rd instar larva
- 3rd molting
- 4th instar larva
- 4th molting

- pupa **MeSH**

pupal stage takes 2 days to several weeks to complete

- newly eclosed
- adult



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nemose@live.com

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