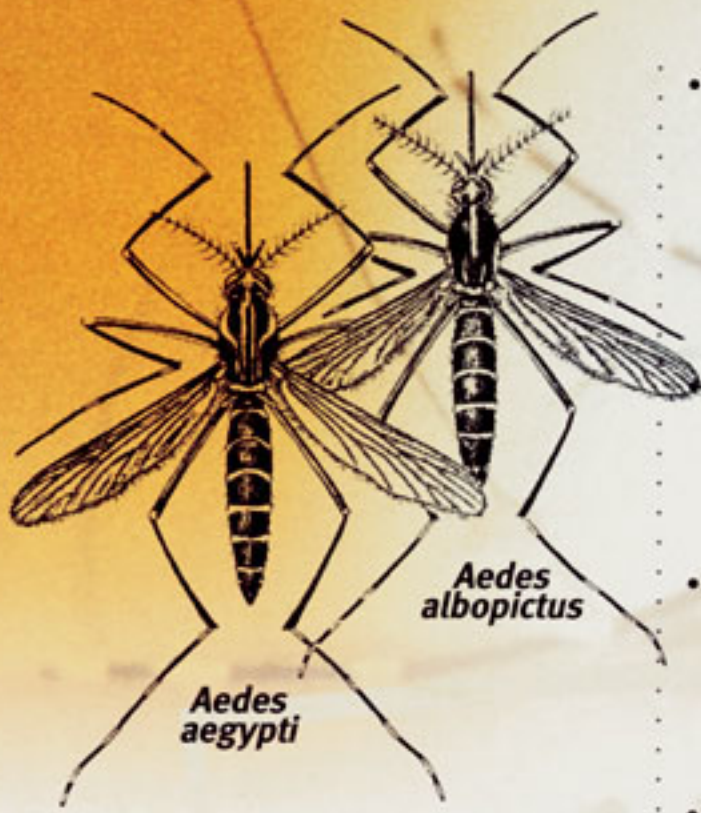


Aedes Mosquitoes.



They zoom in on their prey with deadly accuracy, guided only by the heat, carbon dioxide, moisture and odour emitted from the victim's body!

What is amazing is that they detect all these from the equivalent of hundreds of kilometres away, without the aid of radar. And when they whisk past, their victims who had survived an earlier attack, will shudder upon hearing the signature shrill whining sound.

No, we are not referring to the latest missile or any sophisticated weapon. We are talking about the humble *Aedes* mosquitoes. Here are some interesting facts about Singapore's Public Enemy No. 1 that refuses to go away despite all the public health campaigns:

- Only the female will draw blood because it needs the protein for its eggs development. The male is contented to just suck plant nectar and mate the female mid-air, while in flight.
- The female is described as the "tiger mosquito" because of its white and black striped body.
- The most common species in Singapore are the *Aedes aegypti* and the *Aedes albopictus*, both of which are responsible for the dengue fever, but the former is a vector for the dengue haemorrhagic fever, which can be fatal. To help you identify them, note that the *Aedes aegypti* has three bands on the thorax, while the *Aedes albopictus* has only one.
- Dengue-causing viruses need an incubation period of about 5 to 8 days and the symptoms are aching joints and muscles, fever, headache and sore throat, which are often mistaken for influenza.

- The bad news is that unlike malaria, there is no vaccine available for dengue fever and medical treatment is only symptomatic and supportive. Recovery depends on how well your body can fight the dengue virus. The good news is that unlike malaria, dengue patients are not known to suffer relapses.

The *Aedes* mosquito is a day-biter but prefers to rest under trees and scrubs around noon when the day is hottest. It settles its body in a near horizontal position when it sucks your blood.

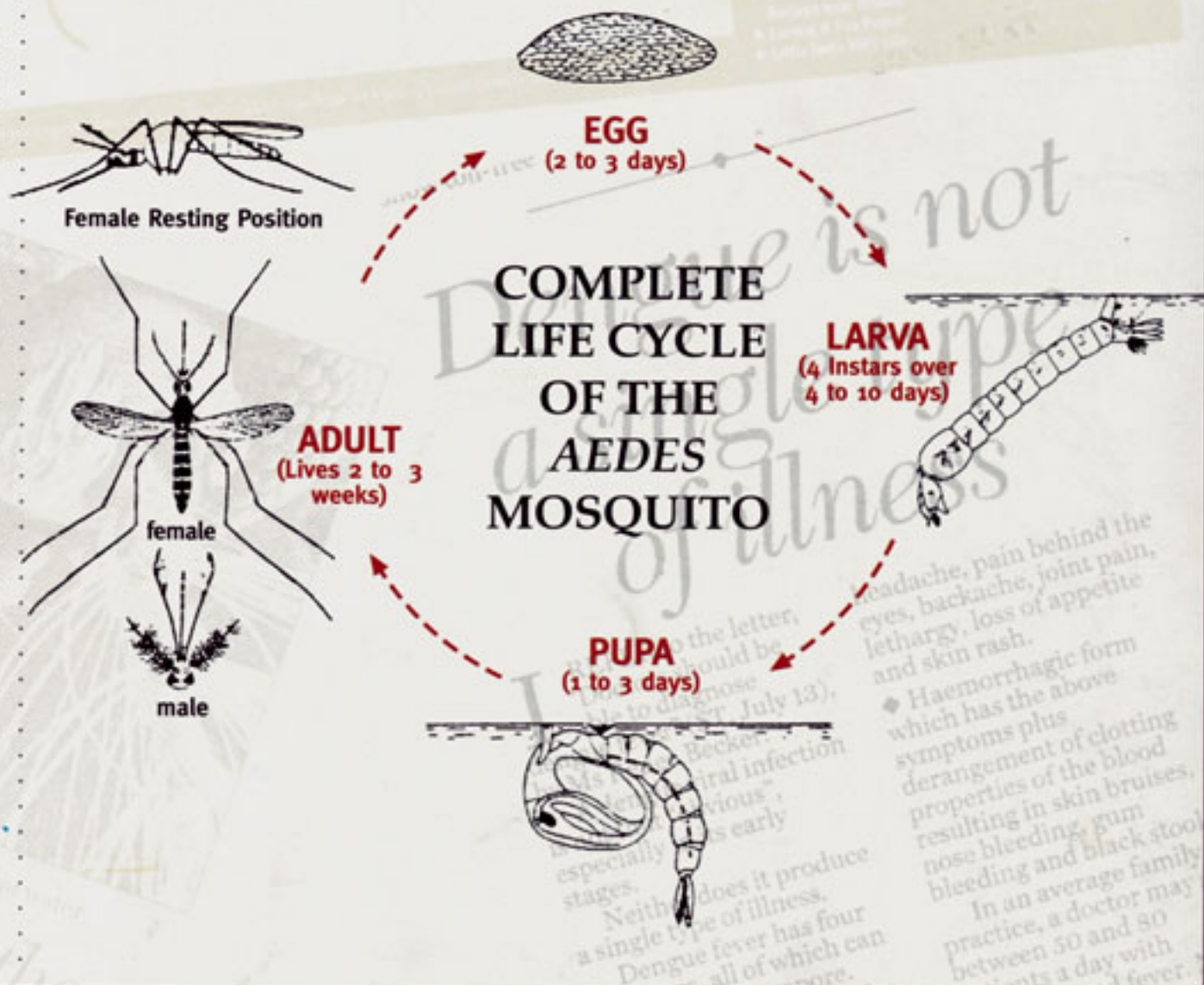
- It has a short flight range of about 30 metres from its breeding site but you must flank out to cover a radius of 200 metres from the complain site, if you want to search and destroy its breeding grounds.
- Although it needs only 2 cm of water for its eggs to develop into adults, what makes the *Aedes* mosquito a formidable pest is the ability of its eggs to survive for months without water. To dislodge them, you will need to give the container a good scrub.

- Prevention is the best solution. Clean water must not be allowed to collect in discarded flower vases, potted plant plates, pails, basins, rubber tyres, roof gutters, rarely used gully traps, unused toilet bowls and cisterns, canvas/plastic sheets, concrete drains, tree holes, leaf axils and fallen leaves in the garden.
- Under the Control of Vectors and Pesticides Act, failure to destroy mosquito-breeding sites can cost you a \$20,000 fine and/or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months. For repeat offenders, the penalty is increased to \$50,000 and/or 6 months imprisonment.

How Deep is the mosquito's love for Water?



It needs only this much water to lay its eggs!



If you need any help in dealing with this deadly enemy, please contact Aardwolf Pestkare (Tel: 268 1771 for our 24-hour service). Our Surveyors will be very happy to advise you.