

Mosquito Diversity in Rajiv Gandhi National Park (Nagarahole), Karnataka State, India

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ABSTRACT

One year long study was conducted to document the diversity of mosquito species in a national park of Karnataka State, India for the first time. A total of 60 species belonging to 10 genera were recorded. Seventeen different larval habitats were identified in the national park. Genus *Culex* was predominant with a maximum number of 21 species followed by *Aedes* with 12 and *Anopheles* with 10 species respectively. *Aedes albopictus*, *An. barbirostris*, *An. vagus*, *Cx. fuscanus*, *Cx. fuscocephala* and *Cx. mimulus* were found throughout the year. Maximum number of species was found to breed in ponds. Of the total number of species recorded, 14 are known to be vectors of different mosquito-borne diseases in India.

Key words: Forest, mosquitoes, diversity, larval habitats

INTRODUCTION

Rajiv Gandhi National Park is one of the hot spots for wild life in the Nilgiri biosphere and lies between latitude 11° 50' N to 12° 15' N and longitude 76° 0' to 76° 20' E on the eastern slopes of Western Ghats (Fig. 1). The national park covers an area of 643.4 sq. km with a core zone of 192 sq. km and a tourism zone of 110sq. km. The terrain is undulating with an altitude ranging from 701 to 959 mts. The climate here is tropical with an annual rainfall of 1194.7 mm. The forest type comprises of southern tropical mixed deciduous- both moist and dry – with small patches of semi evergreen type. It also includes 900ha of teak plantations and degraded scrub forests on the eastern parts. There are several swampy areas within