

Importantly, not just one but many types of mosquito, 32 species in all, commonly occur in South Australia. Mozzies become a nuisance in areas where there are no predators to control them. Because mosquito larvae (wigglers) get oxygen from the air, via a breathing tube, they can survive in polluted water where their predators cannot live. Where there are plenty of predators, such as fish, birds and tiny water creatures (macroinvertebrates), the wriggler population is greatly reduced and many fewer survive to adulthood. **Septic tanks, puddles, pot plant saucers, old tyres and rainwater tanks are all ideal breeding grounds for mozzies.**

South Australia's main mosquito pests



Culex quinquefasciatus

Quink

Medium size, fawn in colour, Quinks make a whining noise as they fly and usually bite indoors after midnight.

Culex molestus

Mole

Medium size, fawn in colour, Moles are indoor night biters, often inflicting several bites.

Culex annulirostris

Annu*

Medium size, dark in colour, Annus bite outdoors at night and in shaded areas during the day. They can carry disease but are relatively rare in Adelaide.

Ochlerotatus notoscriptus

Noto

Small, dark in colour, Notos sneakily bite fingers, hands and ankles at dusk and dawn.

Ochlerotatus vigilax

Vigi*

Medium size, brown, Vigs are outdoor biters that often attack in groups both during the day and at night.

Ochlerotatus camptorhynchus

Camp*

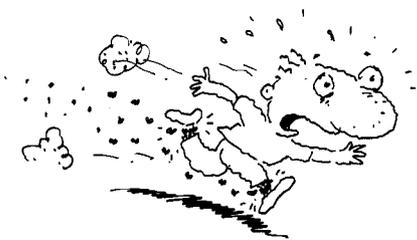
Large, dark in colour, Camps attack in numbers outdoors throughout the day in cooler months.

* Potential disease carrier (Ross River virus)

Which mozzie is it?

During the cooler parts of the year most mosquito species are hibernating, however **Camps** are active biters at this time.

Several mosquito species prefer to breed and bite during the warmer parts of the year. To get an idea which mosquito is bothering you, check the table for possible culprits.



Biting occurs

Indoors		Outdoors	
day	night	day	night
Annu Rural Riverland	Quink Mole Suspect stagnant water breeding for either species	Annu Rural Riverland	Noto Suburban gardens at dawn and dusk
Vigi Coastal mangrove		Vigi Coastal mangrove	Annu Rural Riverland
			Vigi Coastal mangrove

Favourite breeding places for mosquitoes

Suburban Gardens

Stagnant (low oxygen) water conditions are most favoured for mozzies to lay their eggs.

Quinks and **Moles** like septic tanks, drains and rainwater tanks.

Notos use rainwater tanks, small containers, pot plant saucers, blocked gutters and car tyres.

To prevent mosquitoes from breeding in your garden, cover openings of drains and tanks with mesh. Stock ponds with fish, and empty pot plant saucers weekly or fill them with sand. Before potting out plants, spray the pot and saucer with residual insecticide. Store car tyres under cover or tip out any water that has collected in them. Be on the lookout for wigglers in any standing water, no matter how small.

Coastal areas

Vigs breed in warm salty mangrove pools.

Camps breed in cool saline pools.

These mosquitoes naturally live in coastal areas and are difficult to control.



Avoiding mosquito bites

Mosquitoes are a nuisance that can never be entirely eradicated. At best their numbers can be controlled through careful maintenance. However no-one should tolerate large numbers of mosquito bites. The more bites, the more chance of disease!

Here are some things you can do to protect yourself and your family.

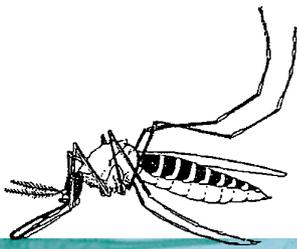
- Wear light-coloured loose clothing outdoors (including during the day)
- Check that fly screens fit properly and do not have large holes
- Burn mosquito coils, remembering that they are only effective within a short range
- Use personal repellents

When using personal repellents, remember that:

- prolonged use is not recommended for children and people with sensitive skin
- creams and gels are more effective and last longer than sprays
- they should contain a low concentration of active chemicals such as diethyl toluamide, ethyl hexanediol, dimethyl phthalate or indalone.



Don't forget to think of your pets and their exposure to mosquitoes.

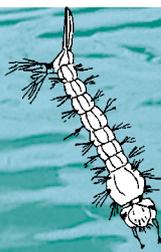


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Adult female lays eggs on the water

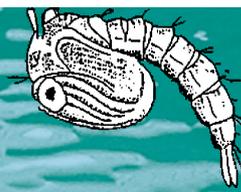
Eggs hatch as wrigglers (larvae) in the water

2

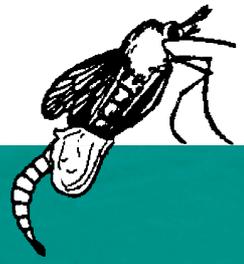


Wiggler turns into a tumbler (pupa)

3



4



Adult mosquito emerges from the tumbler

The life cycle of a mosquito

Facts to remember

- Mosquitoes are often puddle breeders, not pond, wetland or river breeders.
- Mosquito control must be done while the wrigglers are still in the water.

For further mosquito advice and information, contact: The Mosquito Research Laboratory, University of South Australia, Telephone 8302 1623.



University of South Australia

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Torrens Catchment Water Management Board



Patawalonga Catchment Water Management Board

Wetlands

Well-managed wetlands provide a home to mosquito predators and do not pose a mosquito-breeding problem. Fish, dragonfly larvae, flatworms, water beetles, midges and even some species of mosquito feed on mosquito larvae. These predators reduce the number of mosquitoes that make it to adulthood, keeping numbers down.

This fact sheet has been prepared to provide information about the types and habits of common mosquitoes and how we can deal with them. Some common myths about mozzies and their breeding habits are also exposed.

Mosquitoes in South Australia

puddles stagnant water rainwater tanks Septic tanks old tyres pot plant saucers

