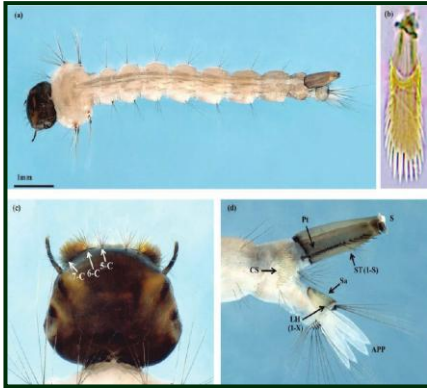




MOSQUITO FACT SHEET: *Aedes japonicus* (The Rock Pool Mosquito)



Physical Characteristics:

Adult female mosquitoes are medium sized and dark in color, appearing black. Has white striped legs and very distinctive blonde colored markings along its back (thorax).

Biology:

An invasive mosquito, first observed in Lucas County in 2005. Overwinters in the unhatched egg stage, or occasionally as larvae. Eggs are deposited, singly, just above the surface of water in natural containers, such as treeholes and rock pools, or in artificial containers such as tires, buckets, flower pots, or bird baths. When the water level rises in the containers, the eggs become covered and they hatch. *Ae. japonicus* mosquitoes have a preference for cooler water and shaded environments. These mosquitoes have become prevalent throughout the county, outcompeting native mosquitoes, and are among the earliest mosquitoes to emerge in the spring. They are found throughout the season in catch basins, abandoned swimming pools, tires, and ornamental water gardens.

Host preferences:

This mosquito shows a preference for feeding on mammals and particularly people. It will feed on birds, when available. It is an aggressive daytime biting mosquito.

Medical Importance:

Aedes japonicus is a competent vector for West Nile Virus and LaCrosse encephalitis virus. It is also a moderately competent vector for St. Louis Encephalitis, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, Chikungunya Virus, Dengue Virus, and Rift Valley Fever. It is a species of concern, requiring further study, for Zika Virus transmission. Its mammalian food preference makes it an important mosquito for disease transmission cycles.