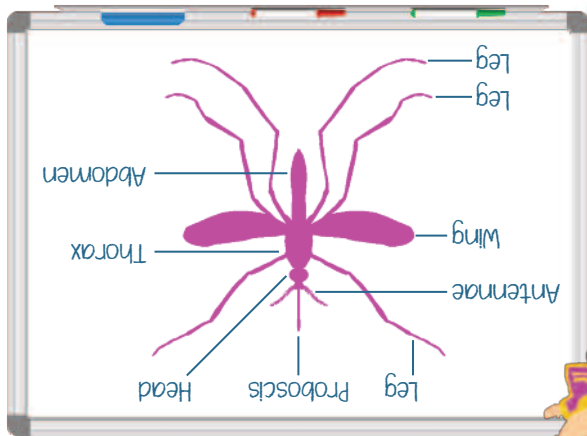




There are around 3,500 mosquito species but not all of them bite. Here are the three genera that cause problems.

Meet the biters!



Mosquitoes are 2 winged insects with 6 legs, slender bodies and a proboscis (mouthparts).



Mosquitoes are Diptera.

Scientists think they appeared at the same time as T-Rex and velociraptors. The dinosaurs disappeared but the mosquitoes are still with us today.

Mosquitoes have outlived the dinosaurs!

Mosquito life habits



Mosquitos bite during sunrise and sunset, and some during the night.



Some bite indoors and some outdoors.



Some fly a few metres and some several kilometres.



They hitch-hike on boats, planes and cars. These are the so-called 'invasive alien mosquitoes' like the Tiger Mosquito.



We are Dr Kelly Martinou and Professor Helen Roy – scientists fascinated by insects. To find out how to become a citizen scientist and record mosquitoes, visit alien-csi.eu or contact us: thethreemosquiteers@gmail.com



Meet...



The Three Mosquiteers



Hi, I am Mo.

mosquito alert



Hi, I'm Ski. We want to help you find out about mosquitoes.

mosquito dipper



Meow

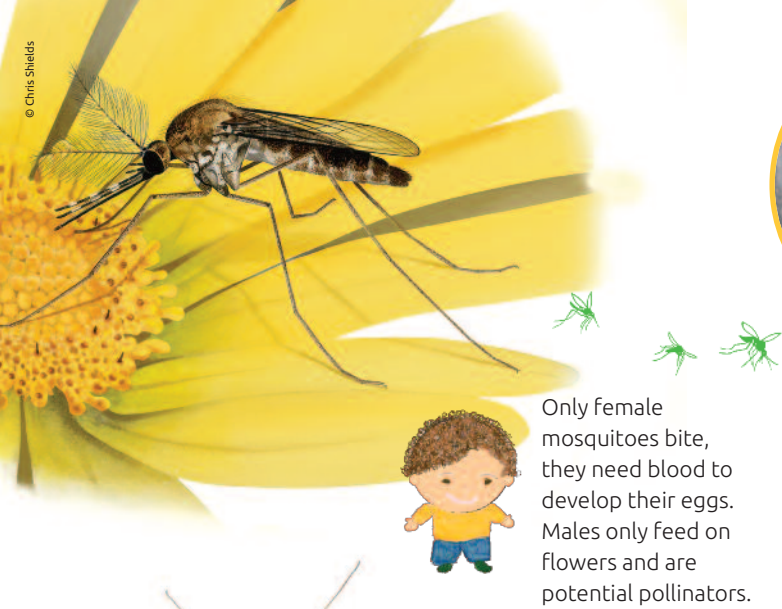


Chubby

Hi, I am Do. You can help us by becoming a citizen scientist.



mosquito trap



Only female mosquitoes bite, they need blood to develop their eggs. Males only feed on flowers and are potential pollinators.



Crane fly, non-biting, 10-70 mm

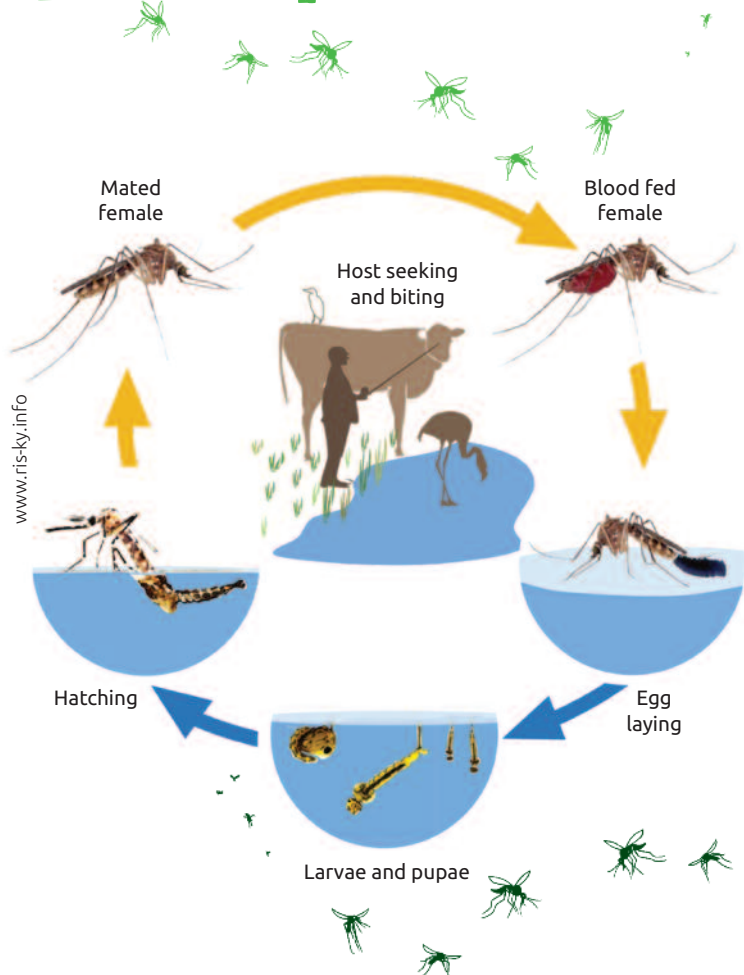


Some people mistake these two flies for mosquitoes.



Chironomus, a non-biting midge, 1-3 mm

The mosquito life cycle



Mosquito breeding sites



Adult mosquitoes fly but all the other stages live in water.



Mosquito larvae are a good food source for many other species eg. birds and amphibia.

Mosquitoes are not very choosy when it comes to water: wetlands, ponds, lakes, marshes, brackish water, stagnant water, tree holes, rain barrels, pots, plant saucers and tyres are all suitable homes for mosquitoes.

Protect yourself and others

Wear repellent and long sleeves.



Use bed nets and screens at home.



Turn over unused objects in your garden where mosquitoes can breed.



Try to avoid using chemical insecticides: mosquitoes become resistant and these chemicals are harmful to beneficial insects such as bees and ladybirds.