

# *Aedes albopictus* (Skuse)

**OVERWINTERING STAGE:** Egg.

**PHENOLOGY:** Multivoltine.

## **LARVAL HABITAT:**

Larvae have been collected from a wide variety of artificial containers including tires, graveyard urns, tin cans, buckets, and natural containers such as tree holes.

## **HOST PREFERENCES:**

These mosquitoes prefer to feed on large mammals, especially humans. When these hosts are not abundant, females will feed on a variety of animals, including small mammals, birds, snakes, turtles and frogs. They are persistent and aggressive day-biters, preferring to bite lower on the body. They will also enter houses in search of hosts.

## **VIRUS TESTING RESULTS:**

Virus	# specimens tested	# pools tested	# positive pools	MIR
WNV	10,353*	1,487	3	0.29
EEE	3,910	534	0	0
La Crosse	1,042	102	0	0

\*74% were from host-seeking traps; 26% were from gravid traps

## **COMMENTS:**

*Ae. albopictus* is generally considered to be one of the most troublesome mosquito species in the world with respect to pest activity and disease potential. Its generalized feeding behavior contributes to its vector potential, which includes laboratory and/or field transmission of dog heartworm, Chikungunya, Dengue, Eastern Equine, La Crosse, St. Louis, West Nile viruses and at least 15 other viruses worldwide. *Ae. albopictus* is an exotic species that was originally Asian in distribution, but has been introduced to many parts of the world largely as a result of the international trade in used tires. A significant breeding population was discovered in Houston, Texas in 1985 and it spread rapidly over the southern states since then, but its northward spread has been slow due to the inability of its eggs to tolerate extreme cold temperatures.

