Introduction
• A. aegypti is a primary vector of malaria, yellow fever, dengue fever and chikungunya virus
• A. aegypti is one of few species which specialize in biting humans
• White scaling on the first tergite, along with body color, has been shown to correlate with preference for human hosts

Objective of the Study
Investigate the correlation between tergite scaling and host preference in several populations of Aedes aegypti

Methods
• Photographed 10-15 individuals from lab colonies and wild samples, focusing on the first tergite and thorax
• Calculated the percent area of white scaling on the first tergite using ImageJ software

Results
• The degree of tergite scaling varied between <1% and 76.445%
• The average area coverage on the first tergite across all populations was 16.14%
• Average tergite scaling within populations varied substantially

Discussion
• Understanding the correlation between tergite scaling and human host seeking contributes to targeted eradication of mosquito-borne disease
• Further exploring morphological variation in A. aegypti may help to explain the origin and development of human host seeking.

Questions
• How does scaling affect the mosquito?
• Are tergite scaling and body color linked to desiccation resistance?

Conclusion
• Considerable variation exists across individuals and populations of A. aegypti
• Continuing to investigate this variation will yield an improved understanding of human host seeking and specialization in A. aegypti

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