

**ASIAN TIGER MOSQUITO (*Aedes albopictus*, DIPTERA:
CULICIDAE) IN ATHENS, GREECE**

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Aedes (Stegomyia) albopictus (Asian Tiger mosquito), an invasive mosquito species of great medical importance, was first found in Athens, Greece, in 2008. Within the next 2 years (2009-2010), its seasonal distribution and population abundance in the surrounding area of its first detection site was investigated. For this, a network of 50 ovitraps was set up in an area of 25km² and monitored for 17 months from 17 August 2009 to 31 December 2010. Weekly servicing of the ovitraps and subsequent laboratory treatment of the collected mosquito eggs revealed that *A. albopictus* is widespread in the whole study area and is the dominant container breeding *Aedes* species. Our results suggest that the Asian tiger mosquito is continuously active in Athens for over 8 months, from mid spring until the end of December, with a considerably high oviposition activity recorded during summer and fall. Additionally, comparison of its activity during late August and end of December, between the two consecutive surveillance years, indicated a significant increase of population abundance the second year. The current study provides information about the biology and potential population densities of *A. albopictus* in the urban environment of the city of Athens.