

## Mosquito species diversity and abundance in relation to riceland agroecosystem and filarial infection in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate, Egypt.

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### Abstract

The present work studied the mosquitoes abundance, identification, distribution and density in three villages (rural area) and one city (urban area) in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate namely; Kebreet, Minyat Al-Ashraaf, El-Salmia and Fowa city, respectively during the rice cultivation season in relation to filaria from June to Oct. 2009. A total of 11381 mosquitoes larvae belonging to four genera and 8 species were collected. Of which 3525 (31.0%) in Minyat Al-Ashraaf followed by 3339 (29.3%) in Kebreet, 3331 (29.3%) in El-Salmia villages compared with 1186 (10.4%) in Fowa city. The five most common species collected during this study were *Culex pipiens* (39.2%), *Cx. antennatus* (27.3%), *Cx. univittatus* (15.8%), *Anopheles pharoensis* (10.4%), and *An. coustani* (3.8%). The mosquito species diversity ( $H$ ) and evenness ( $EH$ ) in the (rice cultivated areas) Minyat Al-Ashraf, Kebreet and El-Salmia villages ( $H = 1.286$ ,  $EH = 0.829$ ;  $H = 1.227$ ,  $EH = 0.742$ ;  $H = 1.110$ ,  $EH = 0.882$ ; respectively) were much higher than in the Fowa city (non rice cultivated area) ( $H = 0.718$ ,  $EH = 0.608$ ). On the other hand, the highest diversity and density of adult mosquitoes species obtained from Minyat Al-Ashraaf were 5 species and (33.8%), followed by Kebreet 5 species and (31.6%), El-Salmia 4 species and (24.5%), respectively compared with 3 species and (10.1%) in Fowa city. *C. pipiens* adults were the predominant species, in all filarial indicator areas (68.1, 53.4, 40.8 and 20.8 mosquitoes/room) in Minyat Al-Ashraaf, Kebreet, El-Salmia villages and Fowa city, respectively. *Cx. pipiens* was the only species to carry infective larvae as well as other stages, while *Cx. antennatus* carried immature stages only (not infective). Filarial larvae in *Cx. pipiens* and *Cx. antennatus* were found only in Minyat Al-Ashraaf and Kebreet villages. It is inferred from the data that different levels of habitat with regard to rice cultivation have different effects on mosquito diversity and abundance. Also, our study revealed that filarial vectors *Cx. pipiens* and *Cx. antennatus* had a wide distribution and high relative density especially in irrigated rice regions and hence its role in disease transmission in Kafr El-Sheikh region needs further investigation .

**Keywords:** Mosquito, Abundance, Diversity, Density, Filaria, Kebreet, Minyat Al-Ashraaf, El-Salmia villages and Fowa city.

### Introduction:

In general, mosquitoes stand out most among the numerous species of blood sucking arthropods that annoy human. But what is more important, is their role in transmission of many serious diseases (Morsy *et al.*, 1990). At least 3500 species of mosquitoes are known all over the world and being found in almost every country

(Stone, 1975). Most of these species act as vectors of different pathogens that cause dengue fever, yellow fever, malaria, lymphatic filariasis, Japanese encephalitis or other serious disease of humans (Service 1996). In Egypt, *Culex* spp. have a wide distribution and are the main vector of Rift valley fever virus (Darwish and Hoogastraal, 1981), *Wuchereria bancrofti* (Gad *et al.*, 1996) and Western Nile virus

## Assessment of

(Pelah *et al.*, 2002). *Bancroftian filariasis* is focally endemic in the Nile Delta of Egypt (Harb *et al.*, 1993). The main vector responsible for transmission of filariasis in Egypt is *C. pipiens* L (Southgate 1979). At present, most endemic villages are characterized by low infection prevalence rates, and low infection intensities (Weil *et al.*, 1999) (Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population, unpublished data).

A basic attribute of mosquito populations is abundance; consequently, its estimation is one of the most important activities of mosquito ecologists. Abundance is a key factor in various types of studies, including life table analyses, assessment of control strategies, and estimation of vectorial capacity.

Irrigated rice agro ecosystems in Africa are associated with a wide spectrum of mosquito fauna. In a study to investigate the succession of mosquito species and their abundance in relation to rice cropping cycles in Bansang, Gambia, 32 mosquito species from seven genera were observed (Snow 1983). In Lower Moshi Tanzania, ten species belonging to the genera *Anopheles*, *Culex* and *Mansonia* coexisted in a rice-village complex (Ijumba *et al.*, 2002). In the Kano Plains, Kenya, indoor and outdoor adult mosquito collections in a rice agro ecosystems yielded a total of 35 species from eight genera (Chandler *et al.*, 1975, Chandler *et al.*, 1976). However, despite the importance of rice cultivation in the proliferation of diverse mosquito species, most research efforts in African rice agro ecosystems have been directed towards *An. gambiae* and *An. funestus* (Chandler *et al.*, 1976, Marrama *et al.*, 1995, Ijumba *et al.*, 2002, Ijumba and Lindsay 2001, Briet *et al.*, 2003, Klinkenberg *et al.*, 2003, Mutero *et al.*, 2000, 2004).

Studies across Africa have demonstrated the link between irrigated agriculture and health. Although irrigation may not necessarily increase the prevalence of malaria (Ijumba and Lindsay 2001, Mutero *et al.*, 2004), it has been shown to aggravate the problem of other mosquito borne disease. A study by Hunter *et al.*, (1992) in northeast Ghana revealed that all

communities reporting *B. filariasis* as a public health problem were former beneficiaries of irrigated agricultural development. In the Gomoa Okyereko rice agro ecosystem in Ghana, natural infections of *B. filariasis* were reported in *Culex quinquefasciatus* and *Mansonia* species (Mawuli *et al.*, 1999). An increase in soil moisture associated with irrigation development in the southern Nile Delta, following the construction of the Aswan High Dam, caused a rapid rise in the abundance of *Cx. quinquefasciatus* Say, and consequently, an increase in prevalence of *B. filariasis* (Thompson *et al.*, 1996). Also in the Nile Delta, *Cx. quinquefasciatus* females were 3.3 times more likely to be infected in agriculturally – based villages than non-agricultural rural villages (Farid *et al.* 2000). Additionally, mosquitoes cause considerable biting annoyance and interfere with both indoor and outdoor activities particularly in irrigated agro ecosystems where they occur in abundance (Lacey and Lacey 1990).

A proper understanding of the relationship between agricultural activity and the occurrence, abundance and distribution of mosquito densities may provide information relevant to the development and implementation of an Integrated Vector Management (IVM) program based on adult productivity and variability. In order to evaluate the relationship between farming practices and mosquito species diversity, the present authors conducted a preliminary entomological study in three villages representing different agro ecosystems (rural areas) and one urban area . The objective of the present work was to provide updated information on the diverse, abundance, distribution , density and identification of mosquitoes fauna associated with rice cultivation in Fowa center, Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate, specially those, which are responsible for filarial transmission.

## Material and Methods:

### Study sites:

The present study was conducted in Kebreet, Minyat Al-Ashraaf, El-Salmia villages and Fowa city belonging to Fowa center in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate. A survey was carried out from June to Oct. 2009 during the rice cultivation season.

This Governorate is one of the most important agricultural provinces on the national level and located in the far north of the Arab Republic of Egypt overlooking the Mediterranean a long a coastline of 100 Km and is bordered to the west of the Rosetta branch a long the 85 Km to its mouth in the Mediterranean sea, in the east Dakahlyia and in the south by Garbeya. Kafr El-Sheikh is considered as one of the most important province in production of rice (30% of the Egyptian production).

### Larval survey:

Collection of larvae was carried out from different breeding places (Sewage wells, Drains, Canals and Rice fields) in all the four indicator areas using a rounded net dipper (17 Cm in diameter) with a wooden handle (130 Cm length). Monthly, tow dips were made randomly in each habitat, the contents of the traps were inverted in white enamel pans filled with clean water. The larvae were killed with hot water or formalin and identified according to Gad (1955).

### Adult survey:

Monthly, in each selected area, ten randomly selected houses were sampled for collection of resting mosquitoes between 07:00 – 11:00 p.m. hours by aspirators added by a torch flash light. The aspirated mosquitoes were stored in screened labeled paper cups with cotton wetted with glucose solution (WHO, 1975).

### Mosquito identification and dissection:

Most of the mosquitoes collected were identified morphologically to species using the keys given by Kirkpatrick (1925), Gad (1963) and Morsy *et al*, (1990). The digestive tracts of fed females were dissected, placed in 20 µl of distilled water, and teased a part to liberate the stomach contents.

After drying the preparations, were fixed and stained with Giemsa. The

microfilarial worms were classified as infected larvae (L<sub>1</sub> sausage stage, L<sub>2</sub> motile short) and infective larvae (L<sub>3</sub> motile with caudal papillae) (Gillies and Coetzee 1987). The microfilariae in each preparation were counted using a compound microscope at a magnification of X 100 to determine the infection load per mosquito.

### Data analysis:

Statistical analysis was done using SPSS software (Version 15.0 for Windows, SPSS Inc., Chicago, 11). Variation in larval densities between habitats (rice field, drains, canals and sewage) was compared by Student t – test. One – way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to compare the differences in the number of mosquito larvae in different habitats (three village and city). Relative density was calculated using the number of specimens of each species and the number of all specimens, according to the following formula (Kocatas, 1992):  $D = NA/N \times 100$  where D is relative density, NA is the number of specimens of species A, and N is the number of all specimens. Shannon diversity index (H) evenness (EH) were done by computer program to characterize species diversity in the four study sites in Fowa center.

## Results:

### Larval survey

#### Species composition and abundance

The relative abundance of mosquito larvae collected in Kebreet village is given in table (1). A total of 3,339 mosquitoes belonging to four genera and 8 species was caught through the cultivated rice period. The genus *Culex* was more diverse with four species, followed by *Anopheles* with two species, *Aedes* and *Culiseta* with one species. Among the culicines, *Cx. antennatus* was the predominant mosquito species (1091) in all samples followed by *Cx. pipiens* (967). Other culicines collected included *Cx. univittatus* (481) and *Cx. deserticola* (35). The genus *Anopheles* was mainly dominated by *An. pharoensis* (523) followed by *An. coustani* (211). Other species collected were *Culiseta sp.* (27) and *Ae. caspius* (4).

Data in table (2) declare the relative abundance of mosquito larvae collected in Minyat Al-Ashraf village. A total of 3525 mosquito larva belonging to four genera and 8 species were collected during the study period. The genus *Culex* was more diverse with four species, followed by *Anopheles* with two species, *Aedes* and *Culiseta* with one species. Among the culicines, *Cx. pipiens* was the predominant mosquito species (1,346) in all samples followed by *Cx. antennatus* (984). Other culicines collected included *C. univittatus* (385) and *Cx. deserticola* (21). The genus *Anopheles* was mainly dominated by *An. pharoensis* (397), followed by *An. coustani* (145). Other species collected were *Ae. caspius* (222) and *Culiseta sp.*(25).

In El-Salmia village table (3), the relative abundance of mosquito larvae collected belonging to two genera and 6 species was (3331) during the study period. The genus *Culex* was more diverse with four species, followed by *Anopheles* with two species. Among the culicines, *Cx. pipiens* was the predominant mosquito species (1471) in all samples followed by *Cx. antennatus* (965), *Cx. univittatus* (534) and *Cx. deserticola* (28). The genus *Anopheles* was mainly dominated by *An. pharoensis* (260), followed by *An. coustani* (73).

The relative abundance of mosquito larvae collected in Fowa city is shown in table (4). A total of 1186 mosquitoes belonging to two genera and 4 species was caught through the study period. The genus *Culex* was more diverse with three species, followed by *Culiseta* with one species. Among the culicines, *Cx. pipiens* was the predominant mosquito species (680) in all samples followed by *Cx. univittatus* (398), *Cx. antennatus* (69) and *Culiseta sp.*(39).

#### Species diversity and evenness

The Shannon diversity index ( $H$ ) was used to characterize species diversity in the three villages and one city belonging to Fowa center in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate. The diversity index ( $H$ ) and evenness ( $EH$ ) of mosquito species in the (rice cultivated areas); Minyat Al-Ashraf, Kebreet and El-Salmia villages (Shannon diversity Index,  $H = 1.286$ ,  $EH = 0.829$ ;  $H = 1.227$ ,  $EH = 0.742$ ;  $H = 1.110$ ,  $EH = 0.882$ ; respectively) were much

higher than in the sites with non rice cultivation (Fowa city) ( $H = 0.718$ ,  $EH = 0.608$ ). This implies that the irrigated agroecosystem has a greater number of species present with the individuals in the community being distributed more equitably among these species (Table 5).

#### Spatial distribution of mosquitoes

In Kebreet village, the data showed a significant higher numbers of mosquitoes ( $P < 0.01$ ) collected from the canals and rice field with percentages (39.4%) and (36.2%), respectively than in either of the other drains (12.9%) and sewage (11.5%). On the level of species, the highest percentages of species collected from the rice field were: *An. pharoensis* (88.5%), *An. coustani* (86.7%) and *Cx. antennatus* (47.1%) in comparison with the same species collected from other habitats. Also, *C. univittatus* (45.9%), *Cx. pipiens* (70.9%), *Cx. deserticola* (94.3%), *Culiseta sp.* (66.7%) and *Ae. caspius* (100%) were higher in the canals than in the other ecosystems.

Data obtained from Minyat Al-Ashraf village recorded that no significant difference was occurred in the total number of mosquito larvae ( $P > 0.05$ ) between rice field and canals with percentages (37.4%) and (37.2%), respectively, but significantly different with other drains (14.7%) and sewage (10.7%). On the level of species, the density of *An. pharoensis* (89.7%), *An. coustani* (91.0%) and *Cx. antennatus* (49.5%) were higher in the rice field than in the other habitats. On the other hand, *Cx. univittatus* (46.0%), *Cx. pipiens* (55.6%), *Cx. deserticola* (100%) and *Culiseta sp.*(72.0%) were higher in the canals than the other ecosystems. A higher density of *Ae. caspius* (64.4%) was recorded in the drains than in the other ecosystems.

In El-Salmia village, Data of table (3) showed no significant difference in densities of mosquito larvae ( $P > 0.05$ ) between rice field (34.6%) and canals (35.1%), but they were significantly different with other drains (14.7%) and sewage (15.5%). On the level of species, higher densities of *An. pharoensis* (95.0%), *An. coustani* (100%) and *Cx. antennatus* (43.6%) were collected from the rice field than from other habitats. However, *Cx. pipiens* (47.5%) and *Cx. deserticola* (82.1%), were higher in the canals than other

ecosystems. Approximately similar in densities of *Cx. univittatus* was apparent among the drains and canals habitats (42.2% and 34.8%, respectively). Moreover, *Ae. caspius* and *Culiseta sp.* didn't record in this village.

A significant difference in densities of mosquito larvae ( $P < 0.001$ ) between canals (66.9%) and sewage (33.1%) were observed in Fowa city. The density of *Cx. univittatus* (72.1%) and *Cx. pipiens* (68.1%) were higher in the canals than in the sewage. Also, the density of *Cx. antennatus* (66.7%) was higher in the sewage in comparison with the canals. Approximately similar densities of *Culiseta sp.* in sewage (46.2%) and canals (53.8%) habitat were obtained.

On the other hand, *An. pharoensis*, *An. coustani* and *Ae. caspius* didn't record in sewage habitats in the three villages and the one city studied. Also, *Ae. caspius* and *Culiseta spp.* didn't record in rice fields, meanwhile *Cx. deserticola* didn't record in rice fields and drains in all villages studied. *An. pharoensis*, *An. coustani*, and *Cx. antennatus* were more abundant in rice field (three villages) than other habitats. In contrast, *Cx. pipiens* and *Cx. univittatus* were more abundant in the canals habitat. Overall, the highest number of all mosquito species were recorded in the rice fields and canals in three villages compared with sewages and drains. Also, in Fowa city highest number of all mosquito species were recorded in the canals compared with sewage.

ANOVA showed that, the differences in the numbers of mosquito species was resulted from the significant differences between the sites of collection ( $F = 3.4$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $P < 0.01$ ) and also between the mosquitoes species ( $F = 14.3$ ,  $df = 7$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ). The least significant difference (L.S.D.) revealed that there were no significant differences in the total numbers of mosquito species between the 3 villages but a significant difference was recorded between the 3 villages and Fowa city. However, the L.S.D. for mosquito species exhibited that the highest number of mosquito species was *Cx. pipiens* as compared with all species except *Cx. antennatus*.

### Adult survey

Data in table (6) showed the population diversity and densities of adult mosquitoes species collected in Kebreet, Minyat Al-Ashraaf, El-Salmia villages and Fowa city. As shown from the results, the highest diversity and density of adult mosquito species obtained from Minyat Al-Ashraaf were 5 species (33.8%), followed by Kebreet 5 species (31.6%), El-Salmia 4 species (24.5%), respectively compared with 3 species (10.1%) in Fowa city. *Cx. pipiens* adults were the predominant species, in all studied areas (68.1, 53.4, 40.8 and 20.8 mosquitoes/room) followed by *Cx. antennatus* (16.1, 18.7, 11.9 and 0.2 mosquitoes/room) in Minyat Al-Ashraaf, Kebreet, El-Salmia villages and Fowa city, respectively. The density was higher in filarious than non filarious areas. The results of larval surveys showed that some species were not discovered in the adult survey.

### Prevalence of infection in mosquitoes

Data recorded in table (7) revealed that, *Cx. pipiens* was the only species to carry infective larvae (3<sup>rd</sup> instar larvae of filaria) as well as other stages. *Cx. antennatus* carried the immature stages only (not infective larvae), while other mosquito species were found to be negative. Filarial larvae in *Cx. pipiens* and *Cx. antennatus* were detected only in Minyat Al-Ashraaf and Kebreet villages. The dissection of females showed that 21 (2.7%) out of 780 females were infected in Minyat Al-Ashraaf, while 3 (0.4%) out of 756 females were infected in Kebreet village. The percentages of infective mosquitoes were 0.5% and 0.0%, in Minyat Al-Ashraaf and Kebreet villages, respectively.

### Discussion:

Climatic changes, increases in population movements, and changes in agricultural culture as the result of large-scale irrigation initiated as part of the Southeastern Anatolia Project (abbreviated as GAP in Turkish) are expected to create a considerable increase in mosquito and malaria problems in Southeastern Anatolia (Tabuk and Yildirim, 1999; Ozer *et al.*, 2001).

In Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate as in the other parts of the Nile Delta, rice is cultivated at the beginning of June and extended till the end of October with irrigation cycles on every 3-5 days during the growing period. So, due to its short lasting period in addition to its irrigation scheme, create a considerable increase in mosquito diversity, abundance and the rate of transmission of mosquito-borne diseases like filariasis.

The present results of mosquito larvae survey showed that, four genera and eight species namely; *Cx. pipiens*, *Cx. antennatus*, *Cx. univittatus*, *Cx. deserticola*, *An. pharoensis*, *An. coustani*, *Ae. caspius*, and *Culiseta sp* were collected in three villages and one city belonging to Fowa center in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate. The rate of collection increased in rural than in urban areas. No significant differences in the density of mosquito species larvae between the 3 villages (rural areas) but a significant difference was recorded between the 3 villages and Fowa city. Higher collections were found in Minyat Al-Ashraaf followed by Kebreet and El Salmia villages. These are the rural and agricultural areas. Certain farming practices, such a rice-growing, providing a large area of shallow, standing water were the ideal breeding places of mosquitoes. The rate of collection decreased in urban areas with agricultural and manufactures environments like Fowa city. The results agreed with (Farid *et al.*, 2000; El-Bashier *et al.*, 2006 and Muturi *et al.*, 2006).

A significant variation in mosquito density and species richness was observed in the three agroecosystems and Fowa city. These variations may be due to the observed differences in the diversity of aquatic habitats among the three villages and Fowa city. The irrigated agroecosystem had more diverse habitat types, thereby supporting diverse mosquito species. The *Culex* mosquitoes breed in a wide range of habitats although they have been able to exploit same habitats as *Anopheles* mosquitoes (Mwangangi *et al.*, 2009). Previous studies have reported a

positive relationship between habitat type diversity and mosquito species richness (Kenawy and El-Said 1989; Ijumba *et al.*, 2002; Shililu *et al.*, 2003).

Larvae of *Cx. pipiens* were found in all villages and Fowa city without marked difference in density. *Cx. antennatus* was found in all indicator areas but with very much lower in Fowa city. This is probably due to absence of rice fields there, its favorable breeding places. *Cx. univittatus* was found in all studied areas but with much higher in Fowa city. *An. pharoensis* and *An. coustani* were found in all villages but *An. pharoensis* and *An. coustani* not detected in Fowa city, this is probably due to absence of rice fields there, its favorable breeding places. *Ae. caspius*, *Culiseta sp* and *Cx. deserticola* were found in few numbers in all indicator areas. In rice agroecosystems, irrigated rice fields and associated habitats such as irrigation channels areas are the principal mosquito larval habitats (Snow, 1983, Mutero *et al.*, 2000, Ijumba *et al.*, 2002) and continue to support mosquito populations during the dry season when the other larval habitats are dry.

The most abundant types were: *Cx. pipiens*, *Cx. antennatus*, *Cx. univittatus*, *An. pharoensis* and *An. coustani*. *C. pipiens* and *Cx. antennatus* were found in all types of breeding places, especially canals and rice field, meanwhile the least favorable places was sewage and drains, respectively. This curious preference of *Cx. pipiens* and *Cx. antennatus* explains their wide prevalence. Rifaat *et al.*, (1970) in Sharkia reported that *Cx. pipiens* represented 83.4% of all larvae collected through the year and the larvae prefer wells and cesspits, while rice fields were abundant. Mohamed *et al.*, (1981) in Giza found that *Cx. pipiens* was the most common mosquito species forming 97.95% of all species and the larvae found in all breeding places especially in cesspits, canals, drains, seepage and lastly wells. Kenawy and El Said (1990) reported that the rice is of significant preference for breeding of culicine

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larvae mainly *Cx. antennatus*. Morsy *et al.*,  
(1990) found *Cx. pipiens* and *Cx. antennatus*

larvae the most common species in Nile valley, Oases and Suez canal zone. El Shazly *et al.*, (1998) in Mansoura found that the most abundant types were *Cx. univittatus*, *Cx. antennatus* and *Ae. caspius*, while the least common types were *Cx. deserticola* and neither detected *Cx. pipiens* in drains, sewage wells nor rice fields. Only a small percent was in a canal of Mansoura center, also, *Cx. antennatus* found only in rice field. Mostafa *et al.*, (2002) over three years study found that *Cx. pipiens* and *Cx. antennatus* were the main species in four Egyptian governorates.

The present study revealed that, *An. pharoensis* and *An. coustani* were more abundant in rice field (three villages) than other habitats. Mosquito species that utilize rice fields as breeding sites were found in significantly higher densities in rice agroecosystems. For instance *An. gambiae*, *An. pharoensis*, *An. sinensis* and *Cx. quinquefasciatus* which are important Riceland mosquitoes (Kaschef *et al.*, 1982, Lacey and Lacey, 1990, Kenawy *et al.*, 1998, Mutero *et al.*, 2000, Shin *et al.*, 2004) were captured in significantly higher densities in rice agroecosystems than in the non-irrigated agroecosystem. Cross-correlation analysis further confirmed that mosquito production in the rice agroecosystems was least dependent upon rainfall, an indication that it is most likely influenced by rice cultivation (Mutero *et al.*, 2004). *An. pharoensis* is exceptional as it prefers rice field habitat for breeding (Gad *et al.*, 1982), the association of *An. pharoensis* with rice plantation has been fully documented (Kirkpatrick, 1925; Halawani and Shawarby, 1957 and Zahar, 1974) and the influence of such association on species distribution in Egypt was discussed in details by Kenawy and El-Said (1990). Lacey and Lacey (1990) observed that the source and clarity of water play a marked role in the presence and abundance of the rice field mosquitoes. In addition, Meisch *et al.*, (1982) reported that the only significant correlation of a mosquito species with changes in

environmental factors of rice field water was the depth.

The least common species were: *Ae. caspius*, *Culiseta sp* and *Cx. deserticola*. *Ae. caspius* detected in canals and drains and there is no larvae detected in sewage wells and rice fields in the different localities. This is in accordance with Kirkpatrick (1925) who found that these species were abundant only in the Nile Delta, and Salem (1933) who found them around Cairo and Oases. Wassif (1969) found these species in great numbers along the costal area. Hurlbut and Weitz (1956) found them among the commonest five mosquitoes of Nile Delta perhaps the discrepancy in the density comes from the fact that the species prefers to have shelters outside human habitations. El Shazly *et al.*, (1998) gave the same observation. Also, *Culiseta sp.* was recorded in canals, drains and sewage wells and not detected in rice field in the different areas, this differs from that of Kirkpatrick (1925) who found it throughout the Nile Valley and Salem (1933) who found it in the Oases, but it agreed with Gad (1956) and Morsy *et al.*, (1990) who found it in the Suez canal zone, around Cairo, in Faiyum, in Northern Delta and in some Oases. Moreover, *Cx. deserticola* was found only in few numbers in canals and sewage wells, the results agreed with those published by El Shazly *et al.*, (1998).

The highest diversity and density of adult mosquito species were obtained from three villages compared with Fowa city. *Cx. pipiens* adults were the predominant species, in all studied areas (68.1, 53.4, 40.8 and 20.8 mosquitoes/room) followed by *Cx. antennatus* (16.1, 18.7, 11.9 and 0.2 mosquitoes/room) in Minyat Al-Ashraaf, Kebreet, El-Salmia villages and Fowa city, respectively. The density was higher in filarious than non filarious areas and the difference was statistically significant. This agreed with (Chandler *et al.*, 1975; Kaschef *et al.*, 1982).

*Cx. pipiens* was the only species found to carry infective larvae as well as other



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stages. *Cx. antennatus* carried the immature stages only (not infective larvae), while other mosquito species were found to be negative. The present results agreed with Kaschef *et al.*, (1982). Filarial larvae in *Cx. pipiens* and *Cx. antennatus* were detected only in Minyat Al-Ashraaf and Kebreet villages and not found in Fowa city. *Culex* spp. have a wide distribution and are the main vector of *W. bancrofti* (Gad *et al.*, 1996). In the Nile Delta of Egypt, *Cx. pipiens* females were 3.3 times more likely to be infected in agriculturally – based villages than non-agricultural rural villages (Farid *et al.* 2000). The percentage of infected and infective mosquitoes (2.7 and 0.5% respectively) is lower than that found by Wassif (1969) in Meet Ghamr (9.14 and 1.14%, respectively) and Kaschef *et al.*, (1982) in Abu Hammad (4.6 and 0.8 respectively). This may be ascribed to the effect of insecticides on filarial larvae in mosquitoes and the treatment programme of filariasis in Kafer El-Sheikh Governorate. Mohamed *et al.*, (1981), found that the percentage of infected and infective mosquito were 0.58 and 0.07% in Giza governorate. Khalil *et al.*, (1932) reported that wild-caught *Cx. pipiens* harbored infective larvae of *W. bancrofti*, the agent of human *B. filariasis*. In the laboratory, Riffat *et al.*, (1970) obtained

infective larvae from laboratory reared female *Cx. pipiens* fed on a filariasis patient. *Cx. antennatus* and *Cx. univittatus* were also found to be naturally infected with *W. bancrofti* larvae and to support the development of these larvae to the infective stage after feeding on an infected patient (Riffat *et al.*, 1969;1970).

### Conclusion:

It is inferred from the data that different levels of habitats with regard to rice cultivation have different effects on mosquito diversity and abundance. Also, the present study revealed that filarial vectors *Cx. pipiens* and *Cx. antennatus* had a wide distribution and high relative density especially in irrigated rice regions and hence its role in disease transmission in Kafr El-Sheikh region needs further investigation. This makes it necessary to have further investigations on the biology and ecology of mosquito breeding in the rice fields. This is of importance for planning of a control strategy mainly through culture practices.

**Table (1):** Relative abundance of mosquito larvae collected from different habitat in Kebreet village during the period from June to October 2009.

Mosquitoes species	Rice field		Drains		Canals		Sewage wells		Total collected larvae	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<i>Cx. antennatus</i>	514	47.1	112	10.3	282	25.8	182	16.9	1091	32.7
<i>Cx. univittatus</i>	0.0	0.0	151	31.4	221	45.9	109	22.7	481	14.4
<i>Cx. deserticola</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33	94.3	2.0	5.7	35	1.04
<i>Cx. pipiens</i>	48	5.0	147	15.2	686	70.9	86b	8.9	967	29.0
<i>Culiseta sp.</i>	0.0	0.0	5.0	18.5	18	66.7	4.0	14.8	27	0.80
<i>Ae. caspius</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	0.12
<i>An. coustani</i>	183	86.7	0.0	0.0	28	13.3	0.0	0.0	211	6.3
<i>An. pharoensis</i>	463	88.5	16	3.1	44	8.4	0.0	0.0	523	15.7
<b>Total</b>	1208 <sup>a</sup>	36.2	431 <sup>b</sup>	12.9	1316 <sup>a</sup>	39.4	383 <sup>b</sup>	11.5	3339	

The total number followed by the same letter are not significantly different (P>0.05).

**Table (2):** Relative abundance of mosquito larvae collected from different habitat in Minyat Al-Ashraf during the period from June to October 2009.

Mosquitoes species	Rice field		Drains		Canals		Sewage wells		Total collected larvae	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<i>Cx. antennatus</i>	487	49.5	109	11.1	215	21.8	173	17.6	984	27.9
<i>Cx. univittatus</i>	7	1.8	96	24.9	177	46.0	105	27.3	385	10.9
<i>Cx. deserticola</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21	100.0	0.0	0.0	21	0.6
<i>Cx. pipiens</i>	335	24.9	164	12.2	748	55.6	99	7.4	1346	38.2
<i>Culiseta sp.</i>	0.0	0.0	7.0	28.0	18	72.0	0.0	0.0	25	0.7
<i>Ae. caspius</i>	0.0	0.0	143	64.4	79	35.6	0.0	0.0	222	6.3
<i>An. coustani</i>	132	91.0	0.0	0.0	13	9.0	0.0	0.0	145	4.1
<i>An. pharoensis</i>	356	89.7	0.0	0.0	41	10.3	0.0	0.0	397	11.3
<b>Total</b>	1317 <sup>a</sup>	37.4	519 <sup>b</sup>	14.7	1312 <sup>a</sup>	37.2	377 <sup>b</sup>	10.7	3525	

The total number followed by the same letter are not significantly different (P>0.05).

Mosquito species.....

**Table (3):** Relative abundance of mosquito larvae collected from different habitat in El-Salmia during the period from June to October 2009.

Mosquitoes species	Rice field		Drains		Canals		Sewage wells		Total collected larvae	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<i>Cx. antennatus</i>	421	43.6	86	8.9	247	25.6	211	21.9	965	29.0
<i>Cx. univittatus</i>	0.0	0.0	229	42.2	189	34.8	116	21.4	534	16.0
<i>Cx. deserticola</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23	82.1	5.0	17.9	28	0.8
<i>Cx. pipiens</i>	413	28.1	176	12.0	698	47.5	184	12.5	1471	44.2
<i>Culiseta sp.</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Ae. caspius</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>An. coustani</i>	73	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	73	2.2
<i>An. pharoensis</i>	247	95.0	0.0	0.0	13	5.0	0.0	0.0	260	7.8
<b>Total</b>	1154 <sup>a</sup>	34.6	491 <sup>b</sup>	14.7	1170 <sup>a</sup>	35.1	516 <sup>b</sup>	15.5	3331	

The total number followed by the same letter are not significantly different (P>0.05).

**Table (4):** Relative abundance of mosquito larvae collected from different habitat in Fowa city during the period from June to Oct 2009.

Mosquitoes species	Canals		Sewage wells		Total collected larvae	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<i>Cx. antennatus</i>	23	33.3	46	66.7	69	5.8
<i>Cx. univittatus</i>	287	72.1	111	27.9	398	33.6
<i>Cx. deserticola</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Cx. pipiens</i>	463	68.1	217	31.9	680	57.3
<i>Culiseta sp.</i>	21	53.8	18	46.2	39	3.3
<i>Ae. caspius</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>An. coustani</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>An. pharoensis</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	794 <sup>a</sup>	66.9	392 <sup>b</sup>	33.1	1186	

The total number followed by the same letter are not significantly different (P>0.05).

**Table(5):** Species diversity and evenness in three villages and one city in Khafr El-Sheikh Governorate, Egypt during the period from June to October 2009.

Sites	Shannon's Diversity Index ( <i>H</i> )	Shannon's Equitability ( <i>EH</i> )
<b>Kebreet</b>	1.227	0.742
<b>Minyat Al-Ashraf</b>	1.286	0.829
<b>El-Salmia</b>	1.110	0.882
<b>Fowa city</b>	0.718	0.608

**Table (6):** Relative abundance of adult mosquitoes Species collected indoor from three villages and one city in Khafr El-Sheikh Governorate, Egypt during the period from June to October 2009.

Locality	No. of room examined	Species	No. of males	No. of females	Total number (%)	Density per room
<b>Kebreet</b>	<b>18</b>	<i>Cx. pipiens</i>	163	798	961 (66.6)	53.4
		<i>Cx. antennatus</i>	76	261	337 (23.3)	18.7
		<i>Cx. univittatus</i>	13	44	57 (3.9)	3.2
		<i>An. pharoensis</i>	7	71	78 (5.4)	4.3
		<i>An. coustani</i>	-	11	11 (0.8)	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5 sp.</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>1185</b>	<b>1444 (31.6)</b>	<b>80.6</b>
<b>Minyat Al-Ashraf</b>	<b>18</b>	<i>Cx. pipiens</i>	185	1041	1226 (79.4)	68.1
		<i>Cx. antennatus</i>	61	229	290 (18.8)	16.1
		<i>Cx. univittatus</i>	-	14	14 (0.9)	0.8
		<i>An. pharoensis</i>	-	7	7 (0.5)	0.4
		<i>An. coustani</i>	-	8	8 (0.5)	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5 sp.</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>1299</b>	<b>1545 (33.8)</b>	<b>85.8</b>
<b>El-Salmia</b>	<b>20</b>	<i>Cx. pipiens</i>	44	772	816 (72.9)	40.8
		<i>Cx. antennatus</i>	41	197	238 (21.2)	11.9
		<i>Cx. univittatus</i>	1	34	35 (3.1)	1.8
		<i>An. pharoensis</i>	3	26	29 (2.6)	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4 sp.</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>1029</b>	<b>1118 (24.5)</b>	<b>55.9</b>
<b>Fowa city</b>	<b>19</b>	<i>Cx. pipiens</i>	45	351	396 (86.1)	20.8
		<i>Cx. antennatus</i>	-	3	3 (0.7)	0.2
		<i>Cx. univittatus</i>	4	57	61 (13.3)	3.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3 sp.</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>460 (10.1)</b>	<b>24.2</b>

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**Table (7):** Filarial infection and infective rates of mosquito species in three villages and one city in Khafir El-Sheikh Governorate, Egypt during the period from June to October 2009.

Villages	No. of females dissected	No. of infected females (%)	No. of infective females (%)	Total No. of filarial larvae observed	Average No. of larvae per infected mosquito	Range of larvae per infected mosquito
Kebreet	756	3.0 (0.4)	0.0	4	1.3	1-2
Minyat Al-Ashraf	780	21 (2.7)	4 (0.5)	47	1.9	1-3
El-Salmia	763	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fowa city	303	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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## المخلص العربي

Please put paper's title and doctor's names here in Arabic like English

تم في هذه الدراسة حصر أنواع البعوض وكذلك معرفة وفرة و كثافة البعوض في منطقتين مختلفتين في محافظة كفر الشيخ أحدهما ريفية ممثلة بثلاث قرى هي قريط , منية الأشراف و السالمية والأخرى حضرية ممثلة بمدينة فوه و كذلك تم دراسة العلاقة بين أنواع وكثافة البعوض في تلك المنطقتين و لديدان الفلاريا وذلك في فترة زراعة الأرز من شهر يونيه إلى شهر أكتوبر 2009 م.

تم تجميع 11381 من يرقات البعوض تنتمي إلى 4 أجناس و 8 أنواع, منهم 3525 (31,0%), 3339 (29,3%) و 3331 (29,3%) من قرى منية الأشراف, قريط و السالمية على الترتيب, مقارنة بمدينة فوه 1186 (10,4%). سجلت الدراسة الحالية خمسة أنواع من يرقات البعوض كانت الأكثر كثافة و هي: *Cx. كيولكس أنتينياتس* (27,3%), *Cx. antennatus* (كيولكس بيبينز (29,7%), *Culex pipiens*) (*Anopheles فرعونى* (10,4%) و *Anopheles pharoensis*) (*Anopheles فرعونى* (10,4%) و *Anopheles pharoensis*) (*Anopheles pharoensis*) (15,8%), *univittatus*) (يرقات البعوض في H) *Anopheles كوستانى* (3,8%). و أظهرت الدراسة أيضا أن تنوع (*An. coustani*) (*An. coustani*) = H , 1,227 = H , 1,286 = H مناطق زراعة الأرز (الثلاث قرى) منية الأشراف, قريط و السالمية ( = 0,718). على الجانب الآخر, (1,110H) على الترتيب , كان أكثر من مدينة فوه الغير مزروعة بالأرز كان الطور اليافع أيضا أكثر تنوعا و كثافة في الثلاث قرى المزروعة بالأرز, و كانت أعلاهم تنوع و كثافة قرية منية الأشراف 5 أنواع (33,8%), قرية قريط 5 أنواع (31,6%) يليهم قرية السالمية 4 أنواع (*Cx. pipiens*) (24,5%) مقارنة بمدينة فوه 3 أنواع (10,1%). سجلت الدراسة الحالية أن الطور اليافع (*Cx. pipiens*) كان النوع السائد في المناطق المصابة بالفلاريا و هي قرى منية الأشراف و قريط (1,68 و 4,53 بعوضة / غرفة) مقارنة بقرية السالمية و مدينة فوه ( 40,8 و 20,8 بعوضة / غرفة) على الترتيب. (*Cx. pipiens*) يحمل النوع الوحيد الذى يحمل الطور *Cx. pipiens* وأوضحت الدراسة أيضا أن الطور اليافع (المعدى لديدان الفلاريا) (الطور اليرقى الثالث) و كذلك الأطوار اليرقية الأخرى للفلاريا, بينما الطور اليافع (*Cx. pipiens*) كان يحمل الأطوار غير المعدية لديدان الفلاريا (الطور اليرقى الأول و *Cx. pipiens*) (الثانى).

ويبين البحث الحالى أن المستويات المختلفة من البيئة و خاصة المناطق المزروعة بالأرز لها تأثيرات مختلفة على التنوع ووفرة البعوضة. أيضا، كشفت دراستنا بأن بعوض *Cx. pipiens* و *Cx. pipiens* الناقلان لديدان الفلاريا كان لهما توزيع عريض وكثافة نسبية عالية خصوصا في مناطق الأرز. ولذلك دورها في نقل المرض في كفر الشيخ تحتاج إلى أبحاث و دراسات مستقبلية.