

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE RECLAMATION BOARD
**CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS
MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT**
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COMMISSION CHAIRMAN
FRANK PERRIN

SUPERINTENDENT
KENNETH R. COURTEMANCHE

TO: Area Newspapers & Media Outlets
FROM: Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project
DATE: July 16, 2000
RE: Discovery of New Mosquito Species in Massachusetts

PRESS RELEASE

The Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project announced today the discovery in mid-June of a species of mosquito new to Massachusetts. Curtis R. Best, Chief Entomologist at Project headquarters in Northborough, reports that the mosquito, *Aedes japonicus japonicus*, (which has no common name), was found in a "gravid trap", a trap designed to collect female, egg laying mosquitoes. **Although a human-biting mosquito, it is not believed at this time to transmit human disease organisms in nature in the United States.** This mosquito species is native to Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and southern China.

A single female specimen was found in the City of Fitchburg, and subsequent searches in the immediate area turned up several larvae of this mosquito in artificial containers. The Project has been monitoring for the mosquito after the species was discovered in mosquito traps in New Jersey and Long Island in 1998, and then Connecticut in 1999. *Aedes japonicus japonicus* is a mosquito species that develops in water in natural and artificial containers such as rock crevices, tree holes, discarded tires, children's toys and any other item that may hold water. Residents are encouraged to empty & wash containers each week that may collect water and/or to remove, discard or cover any such items.

Tim Deschamps, Assistant Superintendent indicates that the Project will continue to monitor this species, as well as other species native to this area, in it's service area throughout the mosquito season. For more information on mosquitoes, the Project, and the services it provides to member cities and towns, please access our website at <http://home.att.net/~cmmcp2>.

Thank you