

Mosquito Facts !

Mosquito Life

MOSQUITOES DON'T NEED YOUR BLOOD FOR FOOD.

Contrary to popular belief, mosquitoes don't get their nutrition from your blood. Their nutritional needs are primarily met by flower nectar. Blood provides protein mosquito eggs need for development.

**Yes, only the female mosquito bites.*

HOW MUCH BLOOD IS LOST FROM A MOSQUITO "BITE"?

The average mosquito consumes approximately 1,000,000th of a gallon of blood per "bite."

**At that rate, it would take about 1,120,000 bites to drain the blood from an average adult human.*

HOW MANY TIMES DOES A MOSQUITO BITE?

Some people think mosquitoes, like bees, sting once and die. But remember, mosquitoes are taking blood, not defending their queen. If they died after "stinging" once, it would defeat the purpose of taking the blood in first place. A female mosquito goes for blood whenever she needs to lay a batch of eggs.

**Unless, of course, she gets squashed on her first attempt.*

HOW MANY EGGS DOES A MOSQUITO LAY PER "BATCH"?

Lots! Depending on the species a female mosquito can lay as many as several hundred eggs in one batch. She will usually lay one to three batches of eggs during her lifetime.

**That's a lot of eggs.*

HOW MANY TIMES DOES A FEMALE MOSQUITO NEED TO MATE FOR EACH BATCH OF EGGS SHE LAYS?

She needs to mate only once before laying many batches of eggs.

**A female will fight off further attempts at mating.*

DO MOSQUITOES TAKE BLOOD ONLY FROM HUMANS?

No! They'll take blood from just about anything with blood: mammals, birds, reptiles, etc. The female mosquito can puncture many types of body covering - even the leathery skin of a frog or the overlapping scales on a snake.

**And we're surprised when they get through a cotton T-shirt or Denim pants.*

WHERE DO MOSQUITOES LAY THEIR EGGS?

Many mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water and hatch in a few days. Other species lay their eggs at the edge of the water and when the water recedes, the eggs will lie dormant until the water rises again.

**Mosquitoes will even lay their eggs on the side of a flower pot retaining dish waiting for you to water the plant.*

DO MOSQUITOES MIGRATE?

No - at least not intentionally. Some ride the wind until they are miles from where they were born. Some species have been found 100 miles from where they were born, but most travel no farther than a mile or two from their birth place. Also, humans often unwittingly transfer species of mosquitoes across continents. The Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) was brought from a scrap tire pile in either Nagasaki or Kobe, Japan, to Houston.

**Today, the Asian tiger mosquito is found in 21 states in the U.S.A.*

IF THEY DON'T MIGRATE, WHERE DO MOSQUITOES GO IN THE WINTER?

Some adult mosquitoes (if they don't first die of the cold) spend the winters hiding out in barns, tree holes, cellars, attics etc.-anywhere they can get out of the wind. To keep from freezing, they form glycerol which acts as antifreeze. Most species overwinter as eggs, lying dormant until hatching conditions are right.

**A few experts hypothesize, however, that mosquitoes simply spend their winters at home watching TV and are only out in the summer because of reruns. Other researchers have deemed this theory "just plain silly."*

WHAT DO MOSQUITOES DO ALL DAY?

Most spend their day hiding in dark, cool places such as in building cracks, tree holes, storm sewers, or leafy bushes. They only bite for an hour or so a day, but it may seem much longer because of the quantity of mosquitoes that live around you.

HOW LONG DO MOSQUITOES LIVE?

Mosquitoes live an average of several weeks in the summer, but may live to be the ripe old age of about one month.

**Mosquito eggs can lie dormant for up to five years waiting for the ideal hatching conditions.*

Information provided by:

The Mosquito Book: by Scott Anderson & Tony Dierckins and

Harris County Mosquito Control

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Fun Mosquito Facts !

Interesting Info About Skeeters

A MOSQUITO'S BRAIN IS THE SIZE OF THIS PERIOD AT THE END OF THIS SENTENCE. ←

And yet they have outwitted mankind since the dawn of history. Mosquitoes behave according to a set of fixed action patterns ingrained into their nervous systems after millions of years of evolution.

**Mosquitoes have been consuming blood for about 200 million years.*

MOSQUITOES PREY ON US, BUT WHAT PREYS ON MOSQUITOES?

Bats, birds, other insects, lizards, spiders, fish, and (slap!) humans.

**Even though millions of mosquitoes become meals every day, their populations are too great to wipe out.*

WHERE ARE MOST MOSQUITOES FOUND?

Wherever you happen to be wearing shorts in the summer. And pretty much everywhere else. Tropical regions have the most varieties of mosquito species, but the Arctic and Antarctic regions are home to larger populations of mosquitoes.

**They've been found at elevations of 14,000ft. in the mountains of Kashmir, India and 3,800 ft. below sea level in gold mines in Southern India.*

WHY DO SOME MOSQUITOES BUZZ LOUDER THAN OTHERS?

You may notice that mosquitoes seem to get louder when you are trying to sleep. They're not really louder: they're buzzing closer to your ears than they normally would because your head is the only thing not covered when sleeping.

**The same theory can be applied to spousal snoring.*

HOW DO MOSQUITOES FIND US?

Mosquitoes can smell their victim. They come a-callin' after bumping into chemical or physical clues coming from their potential victim: carbon dioxide, lactic acid, natural skin oils, and heat.

**Basically, if you can prevent yourself from breathing and sweating, they'll leave you alone.*

WHY DO MOSQUITOES GO AFTER SOME PEOPLE MORE THAN OTHERS?

Some people are more attractive to mosquitoes because they smell better (or worse, depending on your perspective) than others.

**Unlike guard dogs, mosquitoes can't "smell fear."*

WHY DO MOSQUITOES SEEM TO LIKE HUMANS SO MUCH?

Actually, we are second choice for many species: some prefer birds. We are, however, easy prey because we're big and smelly, and there are a lot of us to bite. And the more we build, the more we force other animals to move, so we give the mosquitoes little choice but to chew on us.

**Yummy.*

WHY DO YOU GET "BUMPS" AFTER A MOSQUITO BITE?

Before sucking your blood, the female mosquito injects you with her saliva, which contains an anticoagulant that allows the blood to flow freely into her (*this is also how she transmits disease*). The "bump" is your body's reaction to a protein contained in mosquito spit.

**Yuck*

WHY DO PEOPLE REACT DIFFERENTLY TO BITES?

It all depends on your skin sensitivity and predisposition to allergic reactions. It also depends how many times you've been bitten in your lifetime.

**Some researchers have been bitten so many times they no longer react to mosquito saliva.*

DO NONHUMAN MOSQUITO-BITE VICTIMS ITCH LIKE WE DO?

Yes! Horses, cattle, the family dog-mosquitoes make everything itch!

**We humans seem to be the only ones complaining about it.*

ARE MOSQUITOES GOOD FOR ANYTHING?

Many species of mosquitoes help pollinate flowers. They're also an important link in the food chain: they provide food for other insects and organisms that don't bother humans.

**They also provide work for entomologists, public health specialists, physicians, and insect repellent manufactures.*

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