

***Aedes albopictus* (Skuse) in Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Veneto (North-eastern Italy)**

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Ae. albopictus was first observed in Friuli-V.G. in October 1995: the mosquito was discovered in Monfalcone (province of Gorizia), a port town on the Adriatic coast, in two distinct heaps of discarded tyres.

During the following years, the Regional Sanitary Administration appointed the Department of Applied Biology at the University of Udine to monitor the presence of the insect in the region and organize treatments in the infested areas.

In the period 1996-99, surveys carried out in Monfalcone using ovitraps showed that, notwithstanding insecticide treatments by the local municipality, the mosquito had spread from the original foci to a large area of the town.

Surveys carried out in the rest of the Region led to the discovery of the insect in two other towns near Monfalcone, i.e. Staranzano (province of Gorizia) and Duino Aurisina (province of Trieste).

In Monfalcone, larvae and pupae of *Ae. albopictus* were found from May to September; larvae hatching after September seemed unable to complete development. The adults bit until the end of October.

In the Veneto region the first exemplars of *Aedes albopictus* (Skuse) were captured in Maserà (Province of Padova). They were in a heap of discarded tyres, imported from USA (Dalla Pozza and Majori;1992).

At present six provinces over seven are infested by *Aedes albopictus* and since 1999 also the Rovigo province, although not yet involved in such a problem, was infested too. The towns belonging to this last province are Occhiobello, Boara Pisani, S.Martino di Venezze and Granzette.

The *Aedes albopictus* was discovered on August by checking ovitraps previously placed all around the province.

As far as the towns, in which the *Aedes albopictus* was found, are concerned only in Occhiobello adults and larvae were discovered; they were in a tyre deposit. No findings in the other towns.

By analyzing the data collected from all over the Veneto region (in cooperation with the Local Sanitary Units) it emerged that the spread of *Aedes albopictus* occurred long the main roads.

In 1999 eleven new towns were infested by *Aedes albopictus*, besides an increasing of the phenomenon in the towns already infested.

Tests performed in the Local Sanitary Units 16 zone (Padova), in cooperation with the contract winner disinfestation firm technical chairman, showed that the infestation reached its higher magnitude during the period from August to September. Such an event was also confirmed by the considerable increase of assistance requests in public as well as private areas.

Moreover the rise of the infestation level was also due to the not sufficient disinfestation of private foci and to the presence of much public green areas not scythed. They form an aggregation point for mosquitoes during dry spells and, very often, they hide reproduction centers of reproduction.