



Aede albopictus

“Asian Tiger mosquito”

This is a very small mosquito (approximately ¼ inch) with distinctive black and white banded abdomen, thorax, and tarsi. This mosquito is active during the day as well as dusk and dawn and is a very aggressive biter. *Ae. albopictus* eggs are laid just above the water surface and have the ability to over winter. The larvae and pupae stages are aquatic and, like other mosquito species', their larvae is present in standing water such as discarded tires, ornamental plants, neglected barrels, small containers, tree holes, etc. The larva for this species is dark brown and shaped like a comma. The Asian tiger mosquito is native to Southeast Asia but has been accidentally transported to the United States (U.S.) through ports and nurseries.

In the mid-1980s the Asian tiger mosquito was first introduced to the U.S. in

shipments of used tires from north Asia. In 2001 the mosquito was discovered in two (2) northern counties and four (4) southern counties in California through shipments of ornamental bamboo (*Dracanena*) from South China. Although introduction of the *Ae. Albopictus* has been controlled and eradicated from California, through rapid control and response measures, this mosquito poses an ongoing threat to public health in California. The *Ae. albopictus* is an affiant vector of a variety of pathogens that cause disease in humans and domestic animals. This mosquito has been responsible for recent outbreaks of dengue virus in Hawaii, Texas, and Florida. If the Asian Tiger mosquito becomes established in California, residents will be at a higher risk of mosquito transmitted diseases.