

Understanding Aedes dorsalis

The first line of defense against mosquitoes for a resident is the elimination of any nearby standing water, use of a Deet containing repellent and wearing long pants and long sleeved shirts. But if you know your mosquito is Aedes dorsalis controlling standing water may yield only limited results. Here is why...

The activities of a typical home owner will have little effect on the population of the salt water mosquito Aedes dorsalis because between eggs being laid in water and being hatched in water, the eggs must be dried for at least 24 hours. After eggs have dried, they are subject to hatch after water returns again to the reservoir holding the eggs. When this unique cycle corresponds with changes in the tides the result is biting Aedes dorsalis adult mosquitoes in as little as four days.

The Aedes dorsalis prefers salt water habitat and in theory may also breed in fresh water in a residential area. Likelihood of survival to adulthood at a residence is not great because most property owners do not have water used on their property in a way that mimics the tide cycle.

The following table is a gross simplification of the Aedes dorsalis maturation process and helps show the importance of providing larvacide treatment in tidal influenced areas.

The Maturation Process of the Aedes dorsalis Mosquito
(in perfect conditions these steps may be completed in less than a week)

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9	Step 10	Step 11	
Female Aedes dorsalis finds blood meal.	Up to 200 Eggs layed in standing water by female Aedes dorsalis.	Water recedes leaving eggs exposed to open air.	Eggs dry for at least 24 hours.	From egg hatch to adulthood may be as little as 4 days.						Adult Aedes dorsalis emerge.	Female Aedes dorsalis seek blood meal.
				Water returns to provide standing water for eggs.	Larva hatch from eggs as Instar 1.	Larva develop as Instar 2.	Larva develop as Instar 3.	Larva develop as Instar 4.			
NOTE: Aedes dorsalis eggs over winter in standing water and can wait many months for water to recede providing the right drying conditions.		Dried Aedes dorsalis eggs can remain viable for years.									
					Between Steps 6 and 8 larva are feeding making it the only time that Bti treatment is effective.						
					If water dries away between Steps 6 and 9 larva do not mature to adulthood.						
Between Steps 2 and 9 a high tide can wash away eggs or larva preventing maturation into adulthood.											

A more technical explanation of the Aedes dorsalis can be found using this link.... [USE AEDES DORSALIS LONG STORY...](#)