



# *Aedes aegypti* Biology

**By Rick Hickman and Jeff Brown  
Brunswick County Mosquito Control**

*Aedes aegypti* eggs are deposited in artificial containers, either just above the water level or on the surface of the water. Winter is passed in the egg stage; however, breeding may be continuous throughout the year in warmer climates. The eggs remain viable and will hatch after being held for one year. The immature stages occur mostly in tree holes, artificial water containers in and near residences in the range.

The adult females are wary in feeding, often attacking around the ankles. They may even crawl short distances under the clothing to find a favorable spot to feed. Feeding generally takes place in the shade during the daytime, but the females will feed in lighted rooms at night. Human blood seems to be preferred to that of domestic animals. The adults frequently rest inside houses, in closets, cupboards, cabinets, behind doors, and even behind picture frames, and probably never fly more than a few hundred feet from the water container in which the immature stages developed.

The “Yellow Fever Mosquito” was a very troublesome biter until the early 1990’s, when it was all but eradicated by the introduction of the Asian tiger mosquito. *Aedes aegypti* has not been collected since the fall of 1997 in Brunswick County.

## **REFERENCE**

Carpenter, S. J. and W. J. LaCasse. 1955. Mosquitoes of North America (North of Mexico), University of California Press, Berkeley. 360 pp., 127 pl.