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Revised morphological identification key to the larval anopheline (Diptera: Culicidae) of Sri Lanka

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PEER REVIEW

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Comments

This study is very important because the identification of mosquito species is always the first step in all surveillance and control of malaria strategies. It describes an updated and easy way to use illustrated key that will be useful for Sri Lankan malaria control personnel and researchers interested in local anopheline fauna.

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To revise morphological identification keys to the anophelines in Sri Lanka.

Method: Samples were collected from selected entomological sites in different districts in the country. Stage III and IV larvae were identified under a light microscope with an objective ($\times 10$) using standard larval keys developed for Sri Lankan anophelines. Key larval characters were recorded for each species based on original observations and previous usage in literature.

Results: This manuscript describes an illustrated key for the identification of 22 of 23 mosquitoes which are currently recognized as local anopheline species in Sri Lanka, as a guide to workers engaged in malaria surveillance and control in the country.

Conclusions: Revised morphological keys to the larval of these species may be helpful in easy and accurate identification at the field level.

KEYWORDS

Anopheline, Immature, Mosquitoes, Control, Keys