



Alternative answers

Mosquito control with larvivorous fish

M.B. Wickramasinghe^a, H.H. Costa^b

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Larvivorous fish offer considerable potential for the control of mosquito larvae (and in some instances may help to control snail vectors of schistosomiasis). Thus, although insecticides continue to be the mainstay of mosquito-borne disease control programmes, problems of insecticide resistance (coupled with the limited availability and high cost of alternative chemicals) and concern about environmental contamination, have led to a renewed interest in biological control in which fish can play an important role L2. The natural .enemies of mosquitoes include viruses, pathogenic bacteria, protozoa, nematodes and other invertebrate and vertebrate predators 3,4. Although several potential biological control agents have been investigated for many years, only microbial agents and certain species of larvivorous fish are presently available for use against mosquito larvae 3,