A SURVEY OF CONTAINER BREEDING MOSQUITOES (DIPTERA: CULICIDAE) AT RESIDENTIAL AREA IN KUCHING AND SAMARAHAN DIVISION, SARAWAK.

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Accepted on XXXXXX

ABSTRACT

An investigation of mosquito larvae breeding in containers was conducted at residential areas in Kuching and Samarahan Division, Sarawak during the dry season from June to August 2018. Sampling was carried out by dipping with a pipette and dipper depending on the container types. Seven breeding types of containers namely plastic container, plastic pail, bottle, coconut shell, can, aluminium bowl and plastic bowl were sampled within the residential areas. Ambient temperature and relative humidity of the breeding sites were recorded during each visit. A total of ten species comprising of 7,356 mosquito larvae were collected. *Aedes albopictus* was the most common with 2,712 individuals collected in Kuching Division. In Samarahan Division, a total of seven species comprising of 5,801 mosquito larvae were collected and *Cx. quinquefasciatus* had the highest number with 2,689 individuals. Among all the containers, coconut shell was the preferred container for breeding of mosquitoes. To control the number of mosquitoes, it is necessary to eliminate artificial and natural containers or breeding habitats in and around residential areas. *Aedes aegypi* larvae were not found in the present survey.

Keywords: mosquitoes, containers, *Aedes albopictus*, *Cx. quinquefasciatus*, Sarawak