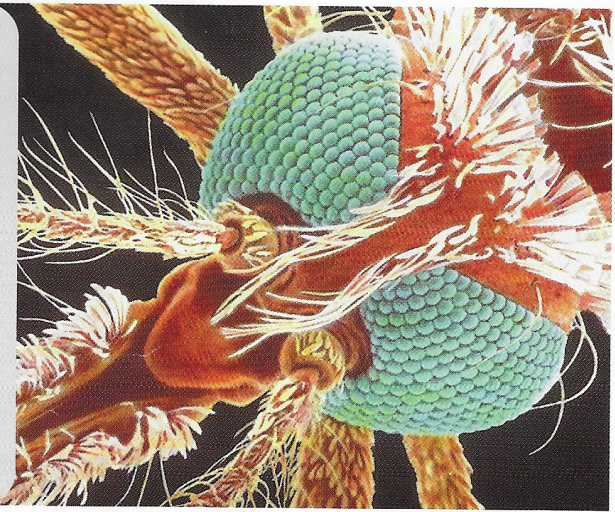


seasons of the tropics, mosquitoes can hibernate or rest, rather than die. The ability to hibernate increases the life span of mosquitoes.

In addition to being warm, the tropics also have long rainy seasons. Mosquitoes must lay their eggs



Mosquitoes are the main vector for spreading yellow fever.

in pools of water, so the moist climate of the tropics gives mosquitoes many places to breed. The combination of warm weather and moist conditions in the tropics provides an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Infection in Mosquitoes

Mosquitoes drink the nectar, or juice, of plants as their main source of food. Sometimes, however, female mosquitoes will drink the blood of animals for food. If a blood-drinking mosquito lives in an area where the yellow fever virus has infected animals, the mosquito

can spread yellow fever further. The mosquito will bite an infected host. The blood from the infected host, which has the yellow fever virus in it, will be drawn into the mosquito. The mosquito is then infected by the virus and will spread the yellow fever virus to the next host that it bites.

The infected mosquito can pass the yellow fever virus on to animals and people for the rest of its life (as long as eight months). This means that the mosquito is able to infect many hosts over the course of its life. Infected mosquitoes often pass the virus on to their offspring as well. The eggs that the mosquito lays will be infected with the yellow fever virus. When the eggs hatch, the new mosquitoes will be carrying the virus.

The Transmission of Yellow Fever

Transmission of the yellow fever virus happens when the virus is passed from one host to another. There are two main types of transmission: jungle transmission and urban transmission. Jungle transmission occurs in tropical rain forests or jungles. Urban transmission occurs in villages, towns, and cities. A third type of transmission, called intermediate, is a combination of jungle and urban transmission.