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Vacant Lots: Productive Sites for *Aedes (Stegomyia) aegypti* (Diptera: Culicidae) in Mérida City, México

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Abstract

We assessed the potential for vacant lots and other non-residential settings to serve as source environments for *Aedes (Stegomyia) aegypti* (L.) in Mérida City, México. Mosquito immatures were collected, during November 2011 – June 2013, from residential premises (n = 156 site visits) and non-residential settings represented by vacant lots (50), parking lots (18), and streets/sidewalks (28). Collections totaled 46,025 mosquito immatures of 13 species. *Ae. aegypti* was the most commonly encountered species accounting for 81.0% of total immatures, followed by *Culex quinquefasciatus* Say (12.1%). Site visits to vacant lots (74.0%) were more likely to result in collection of *Ae. aegypti* immatures than residential premises (35.9%). Tires accounted for 75.5% of *Ae. aegypti* immatures collected from vacant lots. Our data suggest that vacant lots should be considered for inclusion in mosquito surveillance and control efforts in Mérida City, as they often are located near homes, commonly have abundant vegetation, and frequently harbor accumulations of small and large discarded water-holding containers that we now have demonstrated to serve as development sites for immature mosquitoes. Additionally, we present data for associations of immature production with various container characteristics, such as storage capacity, water quality and physical location in the environment.

Keywords

Aedes aegypti; immatures; vacant lots; Mérida; Yucatán; México

Introduction

Dengue is the most important arboviral disease of humans in the subtropics and tropics. A recent study estimated that up to 390 million dengue virus (DENV) infections, including nearly 100 million cases with dengue disease manifestations, occur annually (Bhatt et al.

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2013). The principal urban vector of DENV, *Aedes (Stegomyia) aegypti* (L.), is closely associated with human dwellings; eggs and immature stages can be found in a wide range of water-holding containers in the peridomestic environment while the females often feed and rest indoors (Scott et al. 2000, Barrera et al. 2006a, Focks and Alexander 2006, García-Rejón et al. 2008a, Tun-Lin et al. 2009, Weaver and Reisen 2010).

Previous studies from México, including some conducted in Mérida City, have examined which container types are most commonly infested with *Ae. aegypti* on residential premises – the primary urban environment targeted for mosquito surveillance and control (Lloyd et al. 1992, Winch et al. 1992, Arredondo-Jimenez and Valdez-Delgado 2006, Manrique-Saide et al. 2008, García-Rejón et al. 2011a, Villegas-Trejo et al. 2011). However, there is growing recognition in the Americas that non-residential urban environments (e.g., cemeteries, schools, commercial premises, vacant lots, and stormwater drains and catch basins) also can be important sources for production of *Ae. aegypti* (Lopes et al. 1993; Vezzani and Schweigmann 2002; Abe et al. 2005; da Silva et al. 2006; Morrison et al. 2006; Troyo et al. 2008; dos Reis et al. 2010; García-Rejón et al. 2011b, 2012; de Mendonca et al. 2011; Costa et al. 2012; Manrique-Saide et al. 2012, 2013). Moreover, water-holding containers may differ across urban environments with regards to such factors as container composition, water dynamics, water quality, storage capacity, temperature, and physical location. Previous workers have found that these variables can greatly influence *Ae. aegypti* productivity (Christophers 1960, Focks et al. 1993, Barrera et al. 2006b, Focks and Alexander 2006, García-Rejón et al. 2011a). Therefore it is important that mosquito surveillance and control programs include both residential premises and other urban environments for the production of *Ae. aegypti*, so that successful control is not compromised by an influx of mosquitoes from surrounding non-residential environments.

The primary aim of our research was to assess the potential for non-residential urban environments (such as, vacant lots, parking lots, and streets/sidewalk) to serve as source environments of water-holding containers for the production of *Ae. aegypti* in Mérida City. Vacant lots represent a non-residential urban environment of particular interest in this respect because they often are located near homes, commonly have abundant vegetation, and frequently harbor accumulations of small and large discarded items that hold water and may serve as development sites for *Ae. aegypti* immatures. Moreover, vacant lots also are easy to access, which facilitates their inclusion in mosquito surveillance and control efforts.

Materials and Methods

Study Area

Studies were conducted within Mérida City (population ~ 800,000) in the Yucatán Peninsula of southeastern México. The flat and low Yucatán Peninsula (elevation range, 0–250 m above sea level) has a bedrock dominated by limestone and is characterized by a subtropical climate. Mérida City's climate and housing characteristics were further described in previous studies (García-Rejón et al. 2008a, b). Mean monthly maximum temperatures in Mérida range from 29°C in December to 34°C in July, and the majority of the rainfall occurs from May to October, with a peak from June to September.

Sampling of Mosquito Immatures

Sampling for mosquito immatures from different types of water-holding containers were undertaken from November 2011 to June 2013 in different parts of Mérida City (Figure 1). Urban environments examined included residential premises (n = 156 site visits) and non-residential settings represented by vacant lots (50), parking lots (18), and streets/sidewalks (28). As defined in this study, vacant (empty) lots did not have buildings but often had abundant vegetation and substantial accumulations of domestic trash items. Representative vacant lots are shown in Figure 2. In Mérida City, vacant lots occur sporadically and are much less common than residential premises. We therefore first located and sampled vacant lots, and thereafter randomly selected nearby residential premises (within ~100 m of the vacant lots) for sampling. Parking lots and streets/sidewalks included in the study were in the general areas where vacant lots were sampled. Most (>90%) of the sites were examined on a single occasion but some (6 vacant lots located near markets or schools and 8 residential premises and 2 parking lots adjacent to these vacant lots) were examined on two or more dates. Sampling site locations were recorded using a global positioning system receiver (Garmin, Olathe, KS).

Immature mosquito collections, including the classification of container types, were carried out as described previously by García-Rejón et al. (2011a). The surveys were carried out by trained entomologists from Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán. Briefly, mosquito immatures were collected –using nets, turkey basters, or pipettes – from various containers found in the urban environment, primarily disposable containers, tires, and buckets. We also collected immatures from stormwater drains and catch basins located on streets or sidewalks but those, more extensive collections will be presented in a separate publication.

Mosquito Rearing and Species Identification

Larvae and pupae were collected between 0900 and 1400 hours and transported to the Laboratorio de Arbovirología at Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán where early instar stages were reared (28 ± 1 °C water temperature and a photoperiod of 12:12, light:dark) to fourth instar for more accurate identification. Pupae were allowed to emerge as adults, and then identified to species. Species identification used the taxonomic keys of Carpenter and LaCasse (1955), Ibañez-Bernal and Martínez-Campos (1994), and Darsie and Ward (2005).

Container and Water Characteristics

Container types were classified, following the method of García-Rejón et al. (2011a) and included type of construction (Vezzani and Albicocco 2009) such as ceramic (made from mud, faience [glazed pottery], or cement), rubber, plastic, glass, or metal, also a two-way size of container classification – small disposable containers with a capacity <5 liters versus larger containers of 5 liters that used the national guidelines of México for surveillance of *Ae. aegypti* (http://www.pediatría.gob.mx/sgc/manussa_den.pdf). We also used an alternative three-way classification of water storage capacity, <1.5, 1.5–8.0, or >8.0 liters, to achieve three groupings with similar sample sizes as well as classifying the actual water volume in each container as <0.140, 0.140–0.499, 0.500–1.800, or >1.800 liters to achieve four groupings with similar sample sizes. Shading was classified as shade versus no shade, and we also noted presence or absence of organic matter (leaf litter and/or detritus) in the

water as well as water color subjectively categorized as clear, lightly-colored, or dark-colored.

Data Presentation and Statistical Analyses

Summary values for collections of *Ae. aegypti* and selected entomological indices are shown by urban environment class in Table 1. The presented indices are: 1) the percentage of site visits resulting in collection of *Ae. aegypti* immatures; 2) the percentage of water-filled containers with *Ae. aegypti* immatures present (larvae and/or pupae); and 3) a pupal index representing the percentage of containers with *Ae. aegypti* pupae present out of all containers with *Ae. aegypti* immatures present.

Statistical analyses were performed using the IBM SPSS Statistics version 19 software (IBM Corporation, Armonk, NY), and results were considered significant when $P < 0.05$. When necessary, data were \log_{10} -transformed to meet the assumptions of normality and homogeneity of variances. To compare the likelihood of residential premises versus vacant lots being infested with *Ae. aegypti* immatures, we used a 2×2 contingency table and the chi-square test statistic. A two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) test was used to compare number of *Ae. aegypti* immatures by container type (restricted to disposable container, tire, and bucket) and urban environment class (restricted to residential premises and vacant lots). Significant ANOVA results were followed by a post-hoc Tukey test for multiple comparisons of means. Unpaired Student's t-test or one-way ANOVA test were used to compare the numbers of *Ae. aegypti* immatures for infested containers of different water storage capacity (small disposable containers with a capacity < 5 liters versus larger controllable containers with a capacity ≥ 5 liters), and for small disposable containers with a capacity < 5 liters located in shade versus no shade, with water of different color, or with versus without organic matter in the water. These tests were conducted separately for residential premises and non-residential urban environments (vacant lots, parking lots, and streets/sidewalks combined).

Moreover, we used a principal component analysis (PCA), followed by a multiple linear regression model based on the factors emerging from the PCA, to determine associations between potentially explanatory independent variables (water volume, water storage capacity, size of container, shading, urban environment, organic matter, water color, container type, and container construction material) and, as the response variable, the number of *Ae. aegypti* pupae (\log_{10} -transformed) per pupal-infested container in urban environments (including residential premises, vacant lots, parking lots, and streets/sidewalks). We focused on pupae in this specific analysis because the pupal stage has lower mortality than the larval stage and pupal abundance therefore is a better proxy for the abundance of emerging adults compared with abundance of both immature stages combined (Tun-Lin et al. 1996, Focks and Chadee 1997, Focks and Alexander 2006, Knox et al. 2010).

Results

Summary of Mosquito Collections

We encountered a total of 3,232 containers during the study. Of these, 24.0% held water at the time they were examined and 5.9% yielded mosquito immatures. In total, we collected 46,025 immatures representing 13 species. The most abundant species was *Ae. aegypti* (37,300), followed by *Culex quinquefasciatus* Say (5,590), *Culex interrogator* Dyar and Knab (1,115), *Culex thriambus* Dyar (1,099), *Culex lactator* Dyar and Knab (363), *Culex salinarius* Coquillett (278), *Culex nigripalpus* Theobald (172), *Limatus durhamii* Theobald (35), *Toxorhynchites rutilus* (Coquillett) (30), *Aedes (Ochlerotatus) trivittatus* (Coquillett) (18), *Culex coronator* Dyar and Knab (14), *Haemagogus equinus* Theobald (7), and *Aedes (Howardina) cozumelensis* Díaz Nájera (4).

Collections of Immatures by Urban Environment Class

Containers from all urban environment classes yielded large numbers of *Ae. aegypti* immatures (Table 1). When collection was grouped by environment class, the percentage of site visits with collection of *Ae. aegypti* immatures differed significantly between classes ($X^2 = 22.19$, $d.f. = 1$, $P = 0.000$). Notably, vacant lots (74.0%) had a greater percentage of sites infested with *Ae. aegypti* immatures than residential premises (35.9%). However, there was no significant difference between vacant lots and residential premises for the percentage of water-filled containers with *Ae. aegypti* immatures present (24.3 and 23.0%, respectively) (Table 1). Although the difference was not statistically significant, the average number of *Ae. aegypti* immatures collected per infested container tended to be greater for vacant lots versus residential premises (Table 2). There were no significant differences between urban environment class ($F = 0.478$, $d.f. = 1$, $P = 0.49$) or for the interaction between urban environment class and container type ($F = 0.912$, $d.f. = 2$, $P = 0.91$), but container type was found to be a significant source of variation ($F = 5.86$, $d.f. = 2$, $P = 0.004$).

For other commonly encountered species, we note that vacant lots and parking lots together yielded substantial collections of immatures of *Cx. quinquefasciatus* (3,724), *Cx. interrogator* (1,115), *Cx. thriambus* (720), *Cx. lactator* (363), and *Cx. salinarius* (278).

Collections of *Ae. aegypti* and *Cx. quinquefasciatus* Immatures in Relation to Container Type

We did find a greater relative importance of tires to the overall production of *Ae. aegypti* immatures on vacant lots versus residential premises (accounting for 75.4 and 14.7%, respectively), and of the importance of flower pots for the overall production of *Ae. aegypti* immatures in parking lots (76.5%) (Table 2). In contrast to vacant lots and parking lots, none of the container types accounted for more than 33% of the overall production of *Ae. aegypti* on residential premises.

Abundance of *Ae. aegypti* Immatures in Relation to Selected Container Characteristics and Water Quality

Univariate Analyses of Immatures—The mean number of *Ae. aegypti* immatures (\log_{10} -transformed) per infested container was greater for containers with larger water

storage capacity (> 5 liters) compared with those of smaller capacity for residential premises ($T = -4.13$, $d.f. = 86$, $P < 0.001$) and non-residential environments ($T = -2.97$, $d.f. = 102$, $P = 0.004$) (Figures 3A and 4A). Abundance of immatures was greatest in dark colored water for residential premises ($F = 9.54$, $d.f. = 55$, $P < 0.001$) and non-residential environments ($F = 5.97$, $d.f. = 35$, $P = 0.006$) (Figures 3B and 4B). Mean number of *Ae. aegypti* immatures was significantly greater in containers located in shade ($T = -2.59$, $d.f. = 53$, $P = 0.01$) (Figure 3C), and for containers with organic matter present in the water ($T = -2.09$, $d.f. = 53$, $P = 0.041$) (Figure 3D).

Multivariate Analysis for Pupae—Principal component analysis resulted in four factors that explained >70% of the variation in the data (Table 3). These factors included container water storage capacity and water volume present in the containers (PC1), shading and urban environment class (PC2), presence/absence of organic matter in the containers and water color (PC3), and container type and material (PC4). The abundance of *Ae. aegypti* pupae was significantly associated with PC1 and PC3 ($R^2 = 0.17$, $F = 11.89$, $d.f. = 117$, $P < 0.001$), indicating that container storage capacity, water volume present, water color, and presence/absence of organic matter in the water are important factors to determine pupal productivity in Mérida City.

Discussion

We demonstrate that water-filled containers in vacant lots and other non-residential urban environments (parking lots and sidewalks/streets) serve as sources for production of *Ae. aegypti* in Mérida City. We suggest that these non-residential urban environments, particularly vacant lots, should be considered for inclusion in mosquito surveillance and control efforts. Similar findings for vacant lots were reported previously from other Latin American countries, including Argentina (Costa et al. 2012), Brazil (Lopes et al. 1993, da Silva et al. 2006, dos Reis et al. 2010, de Mendonca et al. 2011), and Costa Rica (Troyo et al. 2008). Vacant lots have several characteristics that make them potentially important sources for production of *Ae. aegypti*, including often being located near residential premises, commonly having abundant vegetation, and frequently harboring accumulations of small and large discarded items that may serve as adult harborage sites, oviposition sites for eggs, and development sites of immatures. The latter is related to dumping of household trash on vacant lots, which can be a substantial problem if these areas are not included in the municipal garbage collection program (Mazine et al. 1996).

In our study, the most important container types for production of *Ae. aegypti* differed between residential premises and non-residential settings. As in previous studies on residential premises in Mérida City (Winch et al. 1992, Manrique-Saïde et al., 2008, García-Rejón et al. 2011a), we found that several different container types, including disposable containers, buckets and drinking troughs for animals, contributed substantially to production of *Ae. aegypti* immatures. In contrast, a single container type was found to produce >75% of immatures on vacant lots (tires) and in parking lots (flower pots). The importance of tires for production of mosquitoes in non-residential settings in Latin America was noted previously (Lopes et al. 1993, Morrison et al. 2006, Rubio et al. 2011). We also found greater abundance of *Ae. aegypti* immatures in larger containers that were shaded or had higher

nutrient content (as indicated by dark color or presence of organic material); these results agree with previous findings from the Americas (Vezzani et al. 2005, Barrera et al. 2006b, Bisset Lazcano et al. 2006, Maciel-de-Freitas et al. 2007, Vezzani and Albicocco 2009, Beserra et al. 2010, Murrell et al. 2011, Wong et al. 2012).

We point out that in addition to *Ae. aegypti*, the non-residential settings produced large numbers of *Culex* immatures, primarily of the notorious nuisance biter and arbovirus vector *Cx. quinquefasciatus*. This underscores the importance of mosquito control in non-residential settings, as *Cx. quinquefasciatus* not only is a major pest of homes and other indoor environments in Mérida City (García-Rejón et al. 2008a, 2011b; Loroño-Pino et al. 2013) but also recently was found to carry viruses with unknown pathogenicity to humans, such as T'Ho virus, in the Yucatán Peninsula (Farfan-Ale et al. 2009, 2010).

Further studies are needed to quantify the relative production of *Ae. aegypti* on vacant lots versus residential premises in Mérida City, including data not only for average mosquito production in these respective environments (based on repeated sampling of individual sites across wet and dry seasons) but also for the size of the areas covered by residential premises versus vacant lots within the city. Nevertheless, it seems feasible that under a scenario of successful mosquito control on residential premises but exclusion of non-residential environments from the control effort, vacant lots and other non-residential settings may emerge as key sources for mosquito production. Because non-residential settings typically are easier to access compared with residential premises, they can readily be included in mosquito surveillance and control efforts.

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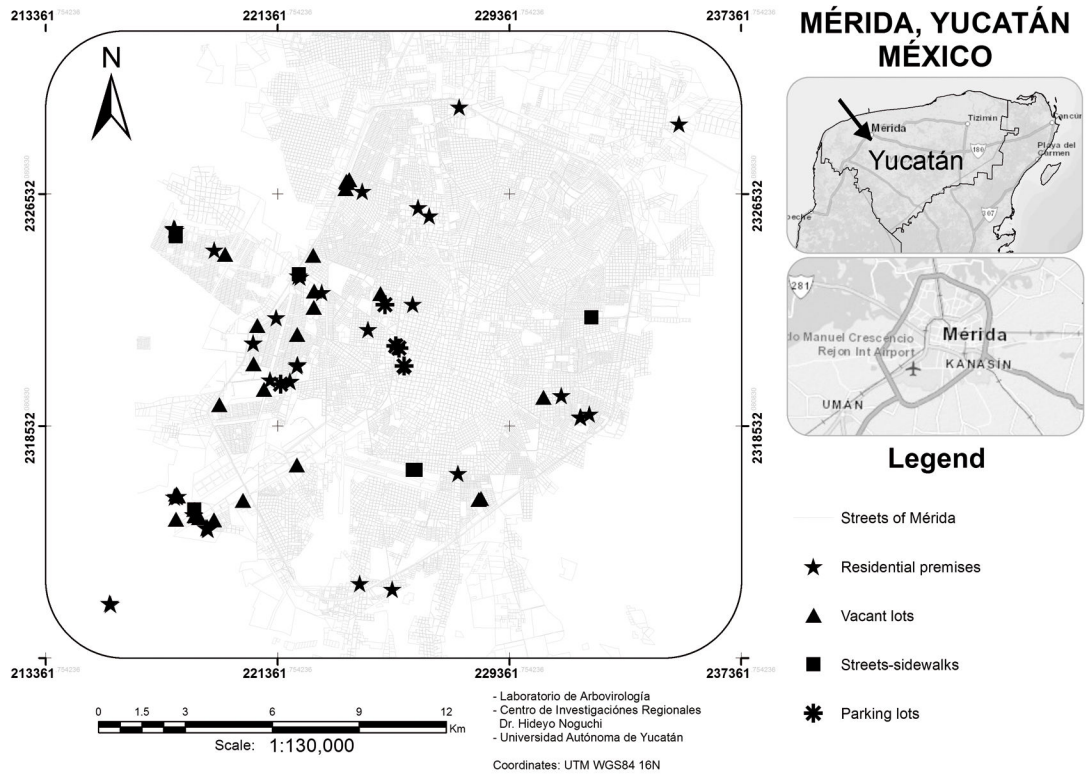


Figure 1.



Figure 2.

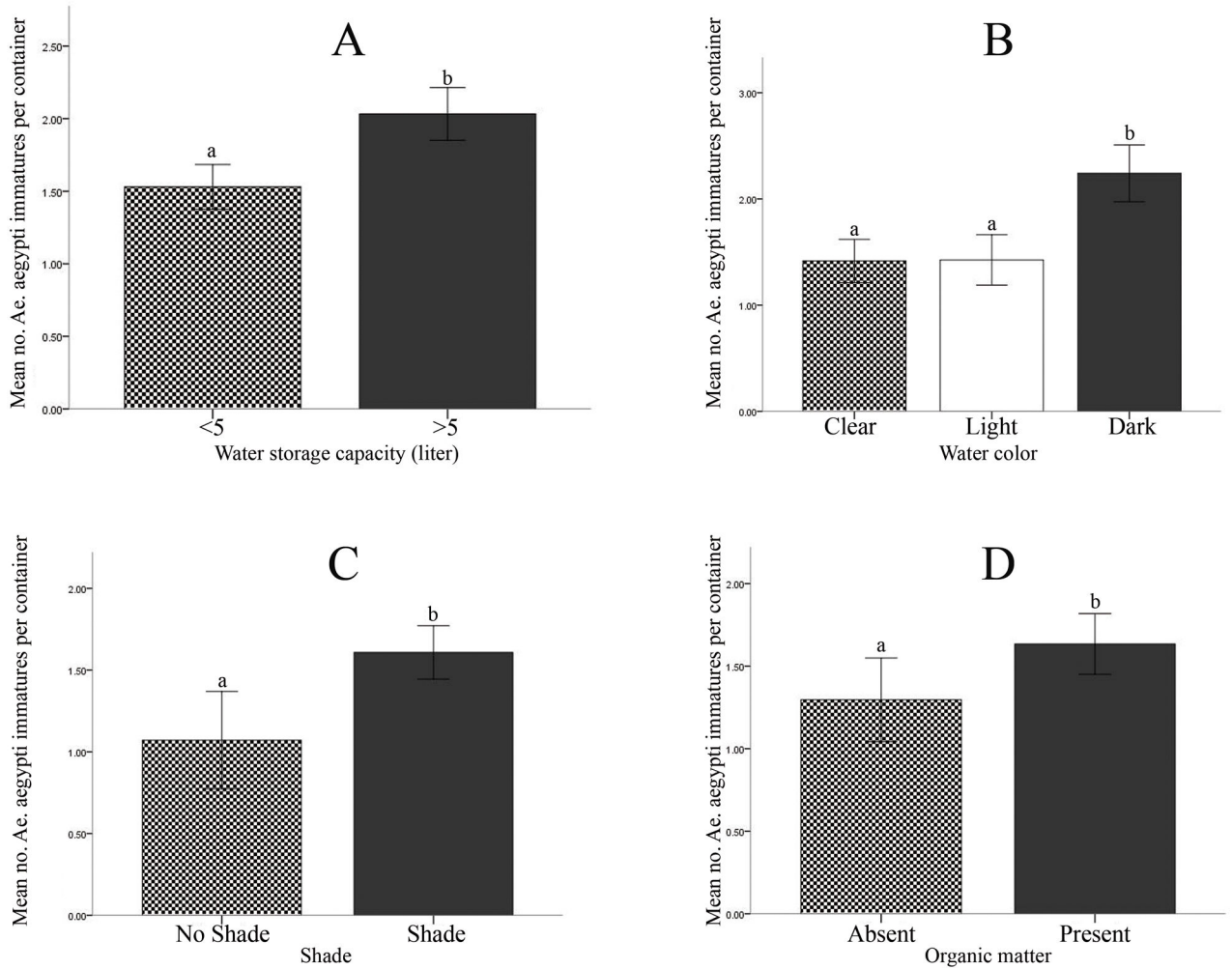


Figure 3. Comparison of the mean number of *Ae. aegypti* immatures (log₁₀-transformed) per infested container on residential premises for: A) small disposable containers with a capacity <5 liters versus larger controllable containers with a capacity ≥ 5 liters, B) small disposable containers with a capacity <5 liters with water of different color, C) small disposable containers with a capacity <5 liters located in shade versus no shade, and D) small disposable containers with a capacity <5 liters with versus without organic matter in the water. Different letters above the error bars (standard error) indicate a significant difference ($P < 0.05$).

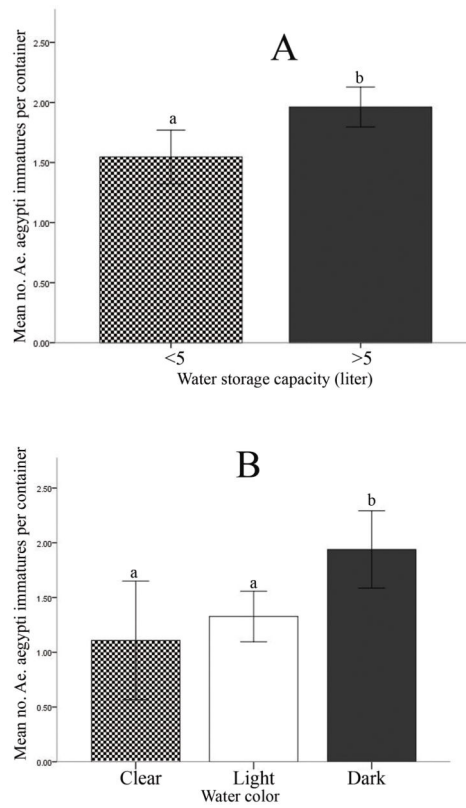


Figure 4. Comparison of the mean number of *Ae. aegypti* immatures (\log_{10} -transformed) per infested container in non-residential settings (vacant lots, parking lots, and streets/sidewalks) for: A) small disposable containers with a capacity <5 liters versus larger controllable containers with a capacity \geq 5 liters, and B) small disposable containers with a capacity <5 liters with water of different color. Different letters above the error bars (standard error) indicate a significant difference ($P<0.05$).

Table 1

Abundance of *Ae. aegypti* immatures in Mérida City by type of urban environment, from November 2011 to June 2013.

Urban environment class	Containers					Entomological indices		
	No. site visits	Total no. examined	No. (%)with water	Larvae	Pupae	% site visits with collection of <i>Ae. aegypti</i> immatures	% water-filled containers with <i>Ae. aegypti</i> immatures present	Pupal index (%) ^b
Residential premises	156	1,920	383 (19.9)	9,129	1,201	35.9	23.0	57.9
Vacant lots	50	1,060	337 (31.8)	17,734	800	74.0	24.3	64.6
Streets/sidewalks ^a	28	84	24 (28.6)	1,369	109	28.6	45.8	63.6
Parking lots	18	168	33 (19.6)	6,799	159	61.1	33.3	63.6
GRAND TOTAL	252	3,232	777 (24.0)	35,031	2,269			

^aIncluding collections from various containers (primarily disposable containers, tires, and buckets) found on streets or sidewalks but not from stormwater drains and catch basins.

^bPercentage of containers with *Ae. aegypti* pupae present out of all containers with *Ae. aegypti* immatures present.

Table 2

Collections of *Ae. aegypti* and *Cx. quinquefasciatus* immatures in Mérida City by type of urban environment and container type, from November 2011 to June 2013.

Urban environment class and Container type	Total no. containers/No. with water	No. water-filled containers with immatures (% by container type)						Total no. immatures collected		
		<i>Ae. aegypti</i>		<i>Cx. quinquefasciatus</i>		<i>Ae. aegypti</i>		<i>Cx. quinquefasciatus</i>		Pupae
		Larvae ^d	Pupae ^d	Larvae ^d	Pupae ^d	Larvae	Pupae	Larvae	Pupae	
RESIDENTIAL PREMISES										
Disposable container	832/161	44 (50.0)	24 (47.1)	5 (55.6)	0	2,970	436	63	0	0
Bucket	298/73	10 (11.4)	8 (15.7)	0 (0)	0	1,692	237	0	0	0
Tire	56/23	7 (8.0)	4 (7.8)	2 (22.2)	0	1,244	272	8	0	0
Flower pot	558/25	6 (6.8)	3 (5.9)	1 (11.1)	1 (100)	680	96	210	2	2
Vase	41/38	13 (14.8)	8 (15.7)	1 (11.1)	0	747	41	1,327	0	0
Animal water dish	28/16	6 (6.8)	4 (7.8)	0 (0)	0	1,750	119	0	0	0
Discarded toilet	1/1	1 (1.1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0	43	0	0	0	0
Other – Fruit shell	106/46	1 (1.1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0	3	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1,920/383	88	51	9	1	9,129	1,201	1,608	2	2
VACANT LOTS										
Disposable container	767/198	31 (37.8)	20 (37.7)	5 (25.0)	0 (0)	2,401	115	44	0	0
Bucket	48/12	3 (3.7)	3 (5.7)	1 (5.0)	1 (20.0)	1,159	11	131	130	130
Tire	168/94	40 (48.8)	26 (49.1)	13 (65.0)	4 (80.0)	13,344	640	2,394	244	244
Discarded toilet	9/7	6 (7.3)	4 (7.5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	629	34	0	0	0
Other – Large diverse	68/26	2 (2.4)	0 (0)	1 (5.0)	0 (0)	201	0	5	0	0
TOTAL	1,060/337	82	53	20	5	17,734	800	2,574	374	374
STREETS/SIDEWALKS										
Disposable container	39/6	1 (9.1)	1 (14.3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	27	41	0	0	0
Bucket	8/4	4 (36.4)	2 (28.6)	1 (33.3)	1 (50.0)	455	19	66	2	2
Tire	18/7	4 (36.4)	3 (42.9)	2 (66.7)	1 (50.0)	730	38	187	1	1
Discarded toilet	3/2	1 (9.1)	1 (14.3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	146	11	0	0	0
Other – Hole in wall	16/5	1 (9.1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	11	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	84/24	11	7	3	2	1,369	109	253	3	3

Urban environment class and Container type	Total no. containers/No. with water	No. water-filled containers with immatures (% by container type)						Total no. immatures collected			
		<i>Ae. aegypti</i>		<i>Cx. quinquefasciatus</i>		<i>Ae. aegypti</i>		<i>Ae. aegypti</i>		<i>Cx. quinquefasciatus</i>	
		Larvae ^a	Pupae ^a	Larvae ^a	Pupae ^a	Larvae	Pupae	Larvae	Pupae	Larvae	Pupae
PARKING LOTS											
Disposable container	28/5	3 (27.3)	2 (28.6)	2 (40.0)	0 (0)	808	15	303	0	0	0
Bucket	24/13	3 (27.3)	2 (28.6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	772	7	0	0	0	0
Tire	2/1	1 (9.1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	28	0	0	0	0	0
Flower pot	98/8	4 (36.4)	3 (42.9)	3 (60.0)	1 (100)	5,191	137	457	16	16	16
Other – Large diverse	16/6	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	168/33	11	7	5	1	6,799	159	760	16	16	16
GRAND TOTAL	3,232/777	192	118	37	9	35,031	2,269	5,195	395	395	395

^aData for immatures are the same as for larvae (no containers had only pupae).

Table 3

Rotated factor pattern scores from nine principal components relating to container or water characteristics to explain the number of *Ae. aegypti* pupae encountered in pupal-infested containers.

Variable	PC1 ^a	PC2 ^a	PC3 ^a	PC4 ^a
Three-way water storage capacity class (<1.5, 1.5–8.0, or >8.0 l)	0.866 ^b	0.266	0.048	0.156
Two-way size of container class (<5 or 5 l)	0.857 ^b	0.310	0.096	0.067
Classification for actual water volume in container	0.831 ^b	-0.157	-0.058	0.007
Shading present/absent	-0.079	-0.796 ^b	0.207	0.057
Urban environment class	0.134	0.694 ^b	0.172	0.013
Organic matter present/absent	-0.027	-0.173	0.831 ^b	-0.023
Water color class	0.076	0.179	0.767 ^b	0.199
Container type	-0.042	0.079	0.028	0.837 ^b
Container construction material	0.220	-0.135	0.132	0.742 ^b

^aThe percentage variation for each component is: PC1 (29%), PC2 (17.5%), PC3 (12.6%), and PC4 (11.4%).

^bScores >0.5.