



# SUGAR FEEDING BEHAVIOR OF ASIAN TIGER MOSQUITOES IN NEW YORK

## ASIAN TIGER MOSQUITO (*Aedes albopictus*)



- A globally invasive mosquito species that can spread over 20 different diseases such as dengue and Zika viruses.



- The purpose of this study was to look at the Asian tiger mosquito's sugar feeding patterns in Long Island, NY.

## SUGAR FEEDING BEHAVIOR



- Mosquitoes get sugar from feeding on flowers. Feeding on sugar provides energy for mosquitoes to fly - for example, potentially to find mates.



- Asian tiger mosquitoes in Long Island feed on sugar more when the weather is hot and dry.



- Mosquitoes looking for a blood meal were more likely to be sugar-fed than resting mosquitoes.



- The mosquitoes captured in areas with more flowers had more sugar in them compared to those taken from areas with no flowers.

## STOPPING DISEASE SPREAD



- We can control mosquito populations by killing them with attractive toxic sugar baits, which lure mosquitoes in to feed on poisonous sugar.

## NEXT STEPS



- More research is needed on the sugar feeding behaviors of Asian tiger mosquitoes to understand mating, blood feeding, egg production, and survival.



- We should look at whether attractive toxic sugar baits can serve as an effective mosquito control tool in the Northeast U.S.

