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# Asian tiger mosquito

Biosecurity



The Asian tiger mosquito can be found in parts of the Pacific, America, Africa and Europe. It likes to shelter indoors and is an aggressive daytime biter that feeds on humans (indoors and outdoors), domestic and wild animals and birds. Australia's mainland is free from the Asian tiger mosquito and we want to keep it that way.

## What the Asian tiger mosquito looks like

An adult mosquito is about 4 millimetres in length, is black and white in colour and has a distinctive white stripe down the centre of its back.

Eggs are elongated, about 0.5 millimetre in length and are dark brown to black in colour. Eggs are laid just above the waterline and can survive for up to a year in a dry state. Larvae develop through four stages before maturing into adults.

## What to look for

The Asian tiger mosquito is most likely to enter Australia as eggs or larvae in cargo capable of holding water such as tyres, machinery, bulk steel and yachts. The eggs are also regularly found on imported lucky bamboo.

## The risk to Australia

The aggressive nature of the Asian tiger mosquito poses a major human and livestock health risk. Its bite can spread serious diseases such as dengue fever, yellow fever and several types of viral infections that can cause swelling to the brain (encephalitis).



#### Images

1. Mosquito larvae in water.
2. Adult Asian tiger mosquito feeding.
3. Adult Asian tiger mosquito.

**Note:** Images are not to size.

## What to do if you find any suspect mosquitoes

### SEE. SECURE. REPORT.

If you see any suspect mosquitoes or pooling water in or around imported goods, secure the goods to limit the movement of the insects where possible and immediately report it to the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources on 1800 798 636.

For safety consult a Department of Agriculture and Water Resources entomologist before handling specimens.



Contact  
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources  
1800 798 636 (free call in Australia)



For more information  
[agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/report](https://agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/report)