

## Vectors

- The epidemiology of malaria results from the demands of its life cycle, which requires reservoirs of infected and uninfected humans, competent anopheline vectors, and multiple opportunities for contact between the vector and its human host.
- Vectors are insects, which transmit infection by biting or by depositing infected material on the skin, food or other objects
- Vectors for malaria are female Anopheles mosquitoes
- Vectors differ considerably in their natural abundance, feeding, and resting behaviours, breeding sites, flight ranges, choice of blood source and vulnerability to environmental conditions and insecticides
- Malaria is often seasonal, coinciding with the rainy season which provides water for mosquito breeding and increased humidity favouring mosquito survival
- For transmission of malaria, the mosquito must live at least 10 days after an infective blood meal during which it must bite a susceptible human host.

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