BIO ECOLOGICAL CHARACTERERISTIC OF MALARIA VECTORS IN SOUTHEAST PART OF IRAN

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Introduction: Malaria is one of the important infectious diseases In Iran. The country has two completely distinct eco-epidemiological zones for malaria: temperate and oriental zones. Oriental zone includes Sistan va Baluchestan, south of Kerman and Hormozgan Provinces with meso- endemicity of malaria infection which in total account for 96% of all cases in Iran.Temperate zone including other provinces and malaria transmission is very restricted in this area. This investigation was carried out in Kerman province.
Aim: To determine Bio Ecological Characteristics of Malaria Vectors in Southeast Part of Iran.
Methods: Sampling was carried out biweekly to collect larvae and adult mosquitoes. All natural and artificial breeding places in and around the selected villages were visited and recorded. Sampling was conducted by standard dipping method, Adult mosquitoes were collected by hand catch, spray sheet collection, landing night catch on human/animal baits and artificial outdoor resting places (pit shelter) methods during the year. In the laboratory, all anopheline specimens were identified at the species level and their physiological status was recorded.
Results: During the study period, a total of 1055 adults and 3288 larvae of anopheline mosquitoes were collected and identified. The species of *Anopheles* mosquitoes including: *An. superpictus, An. fluviatilis, An. stephensi* and *An. dthali* were collected in this investigation. The results revealed that Among the 541 *Anopheles* species collected from indoors by total catch method, *An. stephensi* was the predominant species; also, 114 mosquitos belonged to *An. culicifacies*, 123 mosquitos belonged to *An. dthali*, 7 mosquitos belonged to *An. fluviatilis* and 40 mosquitos belonged to *An. superpictus*.
Conclusion: In order to malaria elimination program in Iran to 2025, in these conditions, even low number of reported cases is very important. Understanding the behavioral characteristics of vectors coupled with their ecology is one of the important factors in planning and determining strategies to fight the malaria vectors.