



**HAL**  
open science

## Behavioural adaptations of mosquito vectors to insecticide control

David Carrasco, Thierry Lefèvre, Nicolas Moiroux, Cédric Pennetier, Fabrice Chandre, Anna Cohuet

► **To cite this version:**

David Carrasco, Thierry Lefèvre, Nicolas Moiroux, Cédric Pennetier, Fabrice Chandre, et al.. Behavioural adaptations of mosquito vectors to insecticide control. *Current Opinion in Insect Science*, 2019, 34, pp.48-54. 10.1016/j.cois.2019.03.005 . hal-02411126

**HAL Id: hal-02411126**

**<https://hal.science/hal-02411126>**

Submitted on 21 Sep 2020

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



Distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution - NonCommercial - NoDerivatives 4.0 International License



# Behavioural adaptations of mosquito vectors to insecticide control

David Carrasco<sup>1</sup>, Thierry Lefèvre<sup>1,2</sup>, Nicolas Moiroux<sup>1,2</sup>,  
Cédric Pennetier<sup>1,3</sup>, Fabrice Chandre<sup>1</sup> and Anna Cohuet<sup>1</sup>

Behavioural resistance to insecticides may be an important factor restraining the efficacy of vector control against mosquito-transmitted diseases. However, our understanding of the mechanisms underlying such behavioural resistance remains sparse. In this review, we focus on the behavioural adaptations of mosquito vectors in response to the use of insecticides and provide a general framework for guiding future investigations. We present our review of vector behaviour in the field and a conceptual classification of behavioural adaptations to insecticides. We emphasise that behavioural adaptations can result from constitutive or induced (i.e. phenotypically plastic) traits. Lastly, we identify gaps in knowledge limiting a better understanding of how mosquito behavioural adaptations may affect the fight against vector-borne diseases.

## Addresses

<sup>1</sup> MIVEGEC, IRD, CNRS, University of Montpellier, Montpellier, France

<sup>2</sup> Institut de Recherche en Sciences de la Santé (IRSS), Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso

<sup>3</sup> Institut Pierre Richet, Bouaké, Cote d'Ivoire

Corresponding author: Cohuet, Anna ([anna.cohuet@ird.fr](mailto:anna.cohuet@ird.fr))

Current Opinion in Insect Science 2019, 34:48–54

This review comes from a themed issue on **Vectors and medical and veterinary entomology**

Edited by **Claudio R Lazzari** and **Anna Cohuet**

For a complete overview see the [Issue](#) and the [Editorial](#)

Available online 28th March 2019

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cois.2019.03.005>

2214-5745/© 2019 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Inc. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

## Introduction

Control of mosquito-borne diseases mainly relies on the use of insecticide-based tools. The increased coverage in the use of insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) in sub-Saharan Africa since the year 2000 is an example of a massive and efficient intervention against malaria [1]. Arboviruses outbreaks can also be controlled through insecticide use [2]. However, using such vector control methods reduces mosquito fitness, and in response, mosquitoes have evolved resistance mechanisms threatening the continued efficacy of insecticide-based strategies.

Understanding the mechanisms of insecticide resistance is key to predicting how resistance may emerge, spread

and hinder control interventions. To date, several physiological resistance mechanisms to insecticides, including biochemical (e.g. target site modifications and metabolic resistance) and morphological (e.g. cuticular thickness) have been described, discoveries aiding the design of resistance management strategies [3,4]. Behavioural resistance is also emerging as an important topic of research [5,6] due to its potentially detrimental effect on the efficacy of insecticides in vector control [7–9,10\*] and the resulting increase in residual transmission it would induce [5].

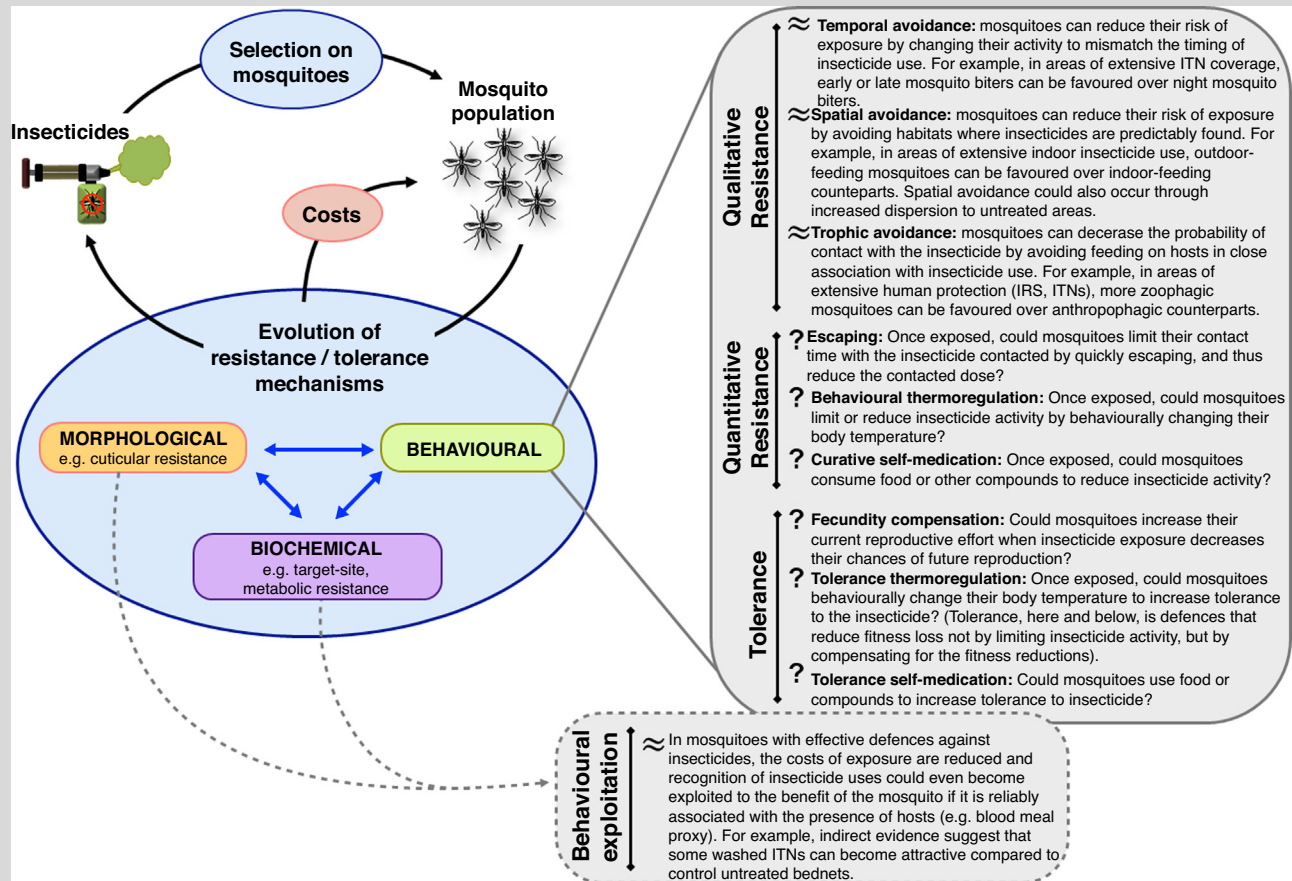
In this review, we focus on the behavioural adaptations of mosquitoes in response to insecticide-based vector control tools. We first propose a framework for organising and investigating such behaviours and review the supporting evidence. Secondly, we highlight that resistance behaviours may be constitutive or phenotypically plastic inducible changes in behaviour, and identify clues for distinguishing between them. Finally, we discuss research perspectives to decipher among behavioural defences in mosquito vectors.

## Classification of behavioural adaptations to insecticides

There is a wide range of behaviours that mosquitoes could adopt to prevent or reduce the negative consequences of insecticides. We propose a conceptual classification of these behavioural adaptations inspired by the classification of insect responses to natural enemies [11\*\*] (Box 1). The first line of defence is *qualitative behavioural resistance* whereby mosquitoes avoid (either temporally, spatially or trophically) contact with insecticides. In areas with extensive use of ITNs or indoor residual spraying (IRS), selection may favour foraging earlier in the evening or later in the morning, times when the human hosts are not protected by bednets or indoor treatments [7]. Increased outdoor host-seeking and/or zoophagy are also consistent with mosquito behavioural adaptation to the use of ITNs and IRS.

Behavioural observations in the field following implementation of ITNs and IRS have provided support for the existence of such behavioural modifications [5]. Temporal avoidance in the form of a behavioural shift from night to evening aggressiveness has been observed in *Anopheles farauti* on the Solomon Islands [12] and Papua New Guinea [13], *Anopheles funestus* in Tanzania [14], and both *An. funestus* and *Anopheles arabiensis* in Kenya [15]. In

## Box 1 Expanding the field of mosquito insecticide resistance



Insecticides reduce mosquito fitness, and in response, selection has favoured genotypes with effective defence mechanisms, including both resistance and tolerance to insecticides. Much work has focused on understanding physiological (biochemical and morphological) defences, but mosquitoes can also express behaviours that protect against insecticides. These 'anti-insecticide' behaviours can be categorised into three possible mechanisms: (1) qualitative resistance which prevents or limits the probability of contact with the insecticide; (2) quantitative resistance, which stops, limits or reduces insecticide action once contact has occurred; and (3) tolerance, which does not prevent *per se* the insecticide exposure or limit its action, but instead alleviates fitness reductions caused by the insecticide. A fourth category of adaptive behavioural response to insecticide use, coined 'behavioural exploitation,' is proposed. This is not a defence mechanism. Instead, behavioural exploitation is envisioned as a secondary behavioural adaptation following the evolution of physiological (i.e. biochemical and morphological) resistance (grey dashed lines) whereby mosquitoes exploit recognition of the insecticide to their benefit. This schematic representation also highlights that the costs of resistance mechanisms (defined as the negative fitness effect of resistance in the absence of the insecticide) should not only focus on biochemical resistance but should also include other defence mechanisms, such as morphological and behavioural defences. The costs qualitative behavioural resistance, for instance, remain currently unquantified. Finally, blue arrows show possible associations between phenotypic defences. For example, if defence is costly, trade-offs between physiological and behavioural defences are expected. For example, individuals with highly efficient behavioural defences may not need physiological resistance, and vice versa. '≈' indicates the existence of field studies providing some, more or less convincing, support to these hypotheses; whereas '?' indicates undescribed cases.

Benin, peak biting time in *An. funestus* was delayed to the early morning [16]. Examples of spatial avoidance come from *Anopheles gambiae* s.l. in Bioko Island [17] and *An. funestus* in Tanzania [14], which displayed increased outdoor host-seeking following implementation of IRS and ITNs respectively. Finally, trophic avoidance with a shift towards increased zoophilic behaviours was reported in *Culex quinquefasciatus*, *An. funestus* [18] and in *An. gambiae*

s.s. in areas of high bednet coverage in Kenya [18,19] and in *Anopheles fluviatilis* and *Anopheles culicifacies* in India where IRS had been implemented [20].

As insecticides become more widely implemented, it is likely that mosquitoes may not be able to avoid contact. In this scenario, if mosquitoes are not immediately killed after insecticide exposure (e.g. sublethal doses or

physiologically resistant genotypes), then they could theoretically evolve *quantitative behavioural resistance* (Box 1). As shown in diverse insect species, behavioural quantitative resistance may include escape reactions that reduce contact duration with the insecticide [21], resistance-promoting behavioural thermoregulation [22,23], and/or curative self-medication [24,25] (Box 1). Similar to biochemical metabolic resistance, which lowers the amount of insecticide reaching target sites, these behaviours could limit the insecticide's direct adverse effects following non-lethal exposures.

If mosquitoes cannot avoid exposure (qualitative resistance) or reduce the direct effects of the insecticide when exposure does occur (quantitative resistance), then they could still limit their fitness loss through *behavioural tolerance* (Box 1). This could occur by altering behaviours associated with offspring production that increase their current reproductive effort, such as i) maximising nutrient intake quality (e.g. blood feeding choice), ii) minimising energy expenditure (e.g. feeding rates and resting times), or iii) adjusting egg production and allocation patterns [26]. Similar to quantitative behavioural resistance, tolerance could also occur through behavioural thermoregulation if mosquitoes rest at some specific temperatures [22,23] or by self-medication if mosquitoes feed on specific diets (e.g. nectars) [24,25] that allow them to maintain health despite insecticide exposure.

While we fully concede that the two post-exposure lines of defence (i.e. quantitative behavioural resistance and tolerance to insecticides) have yet to be observed in mosquitoes, they fully deserve to be considered as some evidence has been found in other insect species [11<sup>••</sup>,24,25].

Given the widespread occurrence of physiological resistance in mosquito populations, the study of behavioural defences should not be considered independently. In this context, a fourth category of behavioural adaptation can be introduced: *behavioural exploitation* (Box 1), whereby physiologically resistant mosquitoes may use the recognition of insecticide-based control tools as a proxy for host presence. Some experiments and field observations are consistent with such behavioural exploitation of ITNs by physiologically resistant mosquitoes. In a laboratory study, physiologically resistant mosquitoes were preferentially attracted to hosts under permethrin-treated nets compared to those under untreated nets [27]. Additionally, a retrospective analysis of experimental hut trial studies found evidence that two WHO-recommended ITNs are attractive to wild *An. gambiae s.l.* after multiple washings [28<sup>••</sup>]. Similarly, a review on the efficacy of ITNs reported 55 deterrence values (defined as the reduction of entry into experimental huts in the presence of an ITN relative to control huts with untreated nets) from 17 articles. Thirteen (24%) of the deterrence values (from seven articles) were negative,

suggesting the possibility of attractiveness [29]. Negative deterrence values have been reported more recently [30,31] suggesting that behavioural exploitation may be associated with different types of ITNs.

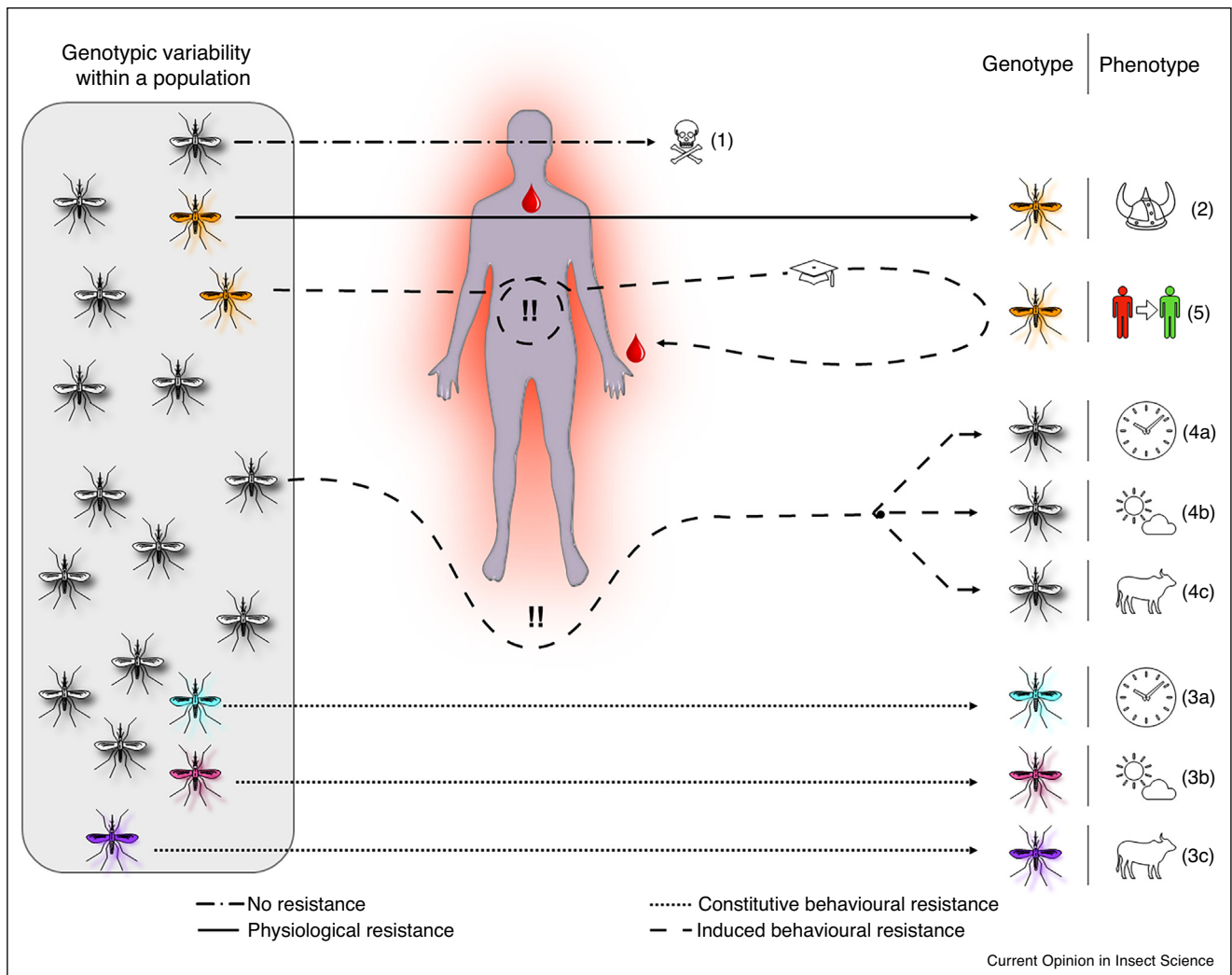
### Constitutive versus inducible behavioural resistance traits to insecticide

Provided there is sufficient genetic variation in *constitutive behavioural resistance traits* and/or *inducible behavioural resistance traits*, they can adaptively evolve in response to selection pressures imposed by insecticide tool use. Constitutive resistance traits occur when genetic variants spread through the population over generations, whereas induced resistance traits (aka plastic traits) occur within a generation. Phenotypic plasticity, the ability of a given genotype to produce different phenotypes in response to different environmental conditions, can indeed allow organisms to quickly respond to environmental changes by producing better matching phenotypes. Theoretical and experimental studies suggest that when environmental conditions are variable (e.g. the risk of contacting the insecticide is unpredictable or variable, perhaps because of heterogeneous ITN coverage, etc.), the evolution of phenotypic plasticity (here inducible behavioural resistance) is expected; whereas in constant conditions (e.g. high overall risk of contact with an insecticide, widespread ITN coverage, etc.), constitutive traits (here constitutive behavioural resistance) will be favoured [32,33]. Nonetheless, constitutive and induced resistance traits are not mutually exclusive; they can co-exist in a given population. In other words, at the individual level, some behavioural resistance traits can be fixed (e.g. early biting) while others plastic (e.g. zoophagy); and at the population level, some individuals may display constitutive resistance traits while others display plastic resistance traits.

The potential behavioural responses presented above for qualitative and quantitative resistance, behavioural tolerance and exploitation can result from the expression of either constitutive or induced behavioural traits. In Figure 1 we illustrate the constitutive versus induced nature of these behavioural traits in the presence of insecticide-based vector control measures implemented in the field (Figure 1). Most of the behavioural resistance phenotypes thus far observed in the field fall into the category of qualitative behavioural resistance (shifts in biting time/site, shifts of bitten hosts), although some observations are consistent with potential behavioural exploitation of insecticides (cases of negative deterrence of ITNs). While some studies are directly or indirectly informative about the potential constitutive or inducible nature of the resistance traits (see below), in many cases it remains difficult to distinguish the origin of the observed behavioural phenotypes.

Behavioural shifts observed in the field can be grouped in relation to i) changes in spatiotemporal biting behaviour,

Figure 1



Schematic representation of the observed mosquito phenotypic responses against insecticides in the field.

Given a genetically variable mosquito population, host-seeking individuals may express different phenotypes when facing insecticides (red halo) depending on their genetic background and their behavioural plasticity. (1) Mosquitoes sensitive to the insecticide will be killed after exposure/contact. (2) Physiologically resistant mosquitoes will encounter insecticides, but their behaviour will be relatively unaffected, being eventually able to blood feed (red drop). (3) Constitutive behavioural resistance mechanisms will favour individuals with genetically determined behaviours that reduce or eliminate contact with control tools. For instance, a shift in biting time (3a; clock), exophagy (3b; sun/cloud) or preferential zoophagy (3c; cow). (4) Individuals with induced behavioural resistance mechanisms must first recognize (!! ) control tools, triggering a deterrence reaction, which is followed by adaptive behavioural modification, for example by modulation of biting time (4a; clock), increased exophagy (4b; sun/cloud) or increased zoophagy (4c; cow). When mosquitos possess physiological resistance to the insecticide, recognition could trigger an attractive effect, (5) if mosquitos learn (hat) the presence of the insecticide tool is a reliable indicator of host presence.

ii) changes in host preference, and iii) the sensory detection of the control tools implemented.

The first group (i) refers to changes in biting rhythms and the degree of exophagy or endophagy. These spatiotemporal shifts in biting behaviour are generally observed together because of the confounding effect that humans are usually outdoors in evenings and mornings whereas they are indoors at night, making difficult to distinguish the underlying cause of the behavioural shift. Circadian

activity in mosquito vectors is known to be under genetic regulation [34–36] with olfactory functions, essential for host seeking, being adjusted by daily rhythms [37,38]. These facts provide a plausible scenario for the possible selection of constitutive behavioural resistance traits related to biting-time. However, specific variants associated with biting time have not yet been identified [39], and a potential biting time shift resulting from behavioural plasticity (induced resistance) cannot be excluded. The genetic determinants possibly regulating

shifts from endophagy to exophagy are even less understood and as is the potential role of phenotypic plasticity in spatial behaviour in mosquitoes [40\*].

The second group of responses expected to be favoured by insecticides (ii) refers to the shifts in host preference. Mosquito species are often described as being either generalists or specialists depending on the fidelity of their host preference [41]. The preference of mosquitos for one particular host over another may be regulated by genes involved in the chemosensory detection of hosts [40\*,42,43]. Thus, between-species differences in host preference are genetically based. However, the presence of within-population genetic variation is required for the evolution of potential host shifts following the implementation of insecticides as control measures. It is reasonable to expect that highly specialised anthropophilic individuals will be more exposed to insecticides than individuals searching for animals outdoors. Genetic selection of anthropophilic preference [44] and identification of genetic variants for host preferences [45] provide support for the idea that selection in the context of vector control through insecticides could cause the evolution of a behavioural shift for preference of alternative hosts in natural mosquito populations (i.e. constitutive behavioural resistance). In contrast, there are also studies showing host preference modulation due to changes in environmental conditions (e.g. host availability) [46] and past experiences [47]. The formation of memory as a consequence of past experiences may create a more durable shift in the individual as long as the behaviour is reinforced [48]. Indeed, it has been shown that mosquitoes can modify their behavioural responses to visual and olfactory stimuli thanks to both appetitive and aversive associative learning [49–51,52\*\*,53]. If so, associative learning, a form of phenotypic plasticity, could play an important role in restructuring host choice preferences in response to insecticide exposure.

Lastly (iii), the existence in the population of variation in the ability of individuals to detect and perceive insecticides as noxious will determine their level of exposure. Thus, the adaptive evolution of neurophysiological abilities to detect insecticides, either upon contact or from a certain distance, would significantly reduce the impact of insecticides through qualitative or quantitative behavioural resistance or even behavioural exploitation, and provide a means for the expression of both constitutive (e.g. escaping) and induced behavioural responses (e.g. alternative host choice, etc.) (Box 1, Figure 1). It has been suggested that the olfactory system is capable of detecting some of the most commonly used pyrethroid insecticides used on ITNs from a distance [54–56] although this assertion remains controversial because of the non-volatility of the molecules and the divergence of results depending on the experimental design [57]. If mosquitos are truly capable of smelling insecticides, it is

possible that physiologically resistant individuals may become attracted to insecticides either through learning [53] or through genetic changes of insecticides hedonic sensory valence [58] because of the association with host presence. In contrast, detection of insecticides upon contact is commonly observed through measures of irritancy [59]. Mosquitoes able to escape a treated surface before acquiring a lethal dose are expected to be favoured over counterparts expressing a slower escape reaction. While there are to date no field observations of such quantitative resistance, experimental evolution of quick escapers [21] suggests its potential existence.

## Conclusions and perspectives

This review updates our current understanding of behavioural resistance to insecticides in mosquito vectors. The mechanisms underlying the observed behavioural shifts and the extent of their costs remain poorly known. Because behavioural resistance in mosquito vectors may have important and potentially severe epidemiological consequences, it is worth shedding light on these phenotypes and initiating studies deciphering their underlying mechanisms and quantifying their fitness benefits and costs. The proposed theoretical classification of behavioural adaptations offers a framework for investigations. For instance, we list several possible behavioural adaptations that may be expressed in mosquito populations in response to insecticide pressure. While some of these behavioural resistance traits may appear speculative (e.g. quantitative resistance and tolerance), examples have been described in other biological systems and hence may represent promising future research avenues. Moreover, behavioural exploitation could have a potentially dramatic impact on the efficacy of vector control if mosquitoes become able to use insecticides as a proxy for bloodmeal source, resulting in the control intervention having the unintended consequence of heightening contact with vectors.

Behavioural adaptations may result from constitutive or inducible traits and their selection will depend on the constancy and intensity of insecticide use in a given mosquito population. In order to identify the genetic determinants of these traits, genomic analysis searching for signatures of selection in the genomes of mosquito vectors and their sibling species sequenced in the last few years [60\*\*] may become valuable. Regarding the interest of entomologist/epidemiologist community in behavioural resistance, we are optimistic that future research will rapidly provide meaningful insight on the behavioural adaptations of mosquitoes to vector control tools and that these insights will help to adapt control strategies in the fight against vector-borne diseases. Finally, physiological and behavioural resistance may likely coexist in natural mosquito populations and it will be important to study the possible trade-offs and associations between these different protective strategies.

## Funding

This work was supported by The French National Research Program for Environmental and Occupational Health of Anses (EST-2016/1/39), by the Languedoc-Roussillon (LR)/Occitanie region and EU-FEDER under the name ‘Chercheur(se)s d’Avenir’, by the ANR grant ‘STORM’ 16-CE35, and by Initiative 5%—Expertise France (N° 15SANIN213). The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

## Conflict of interest statement

Nothing declared.

## References and recommended reading

Papers of particular interest, published within the period of review, have been highlighted as:

- of special interest
- of outstanding interest

1. Bhatt S, Weiss DJ, Cameron E, Bisanzio D, Mappin B, Dalrymple U, Battle KE, Moyes CL, Henry A, Eckhoff PA et al.: **The effect of malaria control on *Plasmodium falciparum* in Africa between 2000 and 2015.** *Nature* 2015, **526**:207-211.
2. Roiz D, Wilson AL, Scott TW, Fonseca DM, Jourdain F, Velayudhan R, Corbel V: **Integrated *Aedes* management for the control of *Aedes*-borne diseases.** *PLoS Negl Trop Dis* 2018, **12**:1-21 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0006845> e0006845.
3. Labbé P, David JP, Alout H, Milesi P, Djogbénu L, Pasteur N, Weill M: **Evolution of resistance to insecticide in disease vectors.** *Genet Evol Infect Dis Second Ed* 2017:313-339 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-799942-5.00014-7>. (chapter 14).
4. Ranson H, N’Guessan R, Lines J, Moiroux N, Nkuni Z, Corbel V: **Pyrethroid resistance in African anopheline mosquitoes: what are the implications for malaria control?** *Trends Parasitol* 2011, **27**:91-98.
5. Durnez L, Coosemans M: **Residual transmission of malaria: an old issue for new approaches.** In *Anopheles Mosquitoes: New Insights into Malaria Vectors*. Edited by Manguin S. 2013:671-704.
6. Gatton ML, Chitnis N, Churcher T, Donnelly MJ, Ghani AC, Godfray HCJ, Gould F, Hastings I, Marshall J, Ranson H et al.: **The importance of mosquito behavioural adaptations to malaria control in Africa.** *Evolution (NY)* 2013, **67**:1218-1230 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/evo.12063>.
7. Ferreira CP, Lyra SP, Azevedo F, Greenhalgh D, Massad E: **Modelling the impact of the long-term use of insecticide-treated bed nets on *Anopheles* mosquito biting time.** *Malar J* 2017, **16**.
8. Killeen GF, Chitnis N: **Potential causes and consequences of behavioural resilience and resistance in malaria vector populations: a mathematical modelling analysis.** *Malar J* 2014, **13**:1-16 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/1475-2875-13-97>.
9. Moiroux N, Bio-Bangana AS, Djènontin A, Chandre F, Corbel V, Guis H: **Modelling the risk of being bitten by malaria vectors in a vector control area in southern Benin, West Africa.** *Parasit Vectors* 2013, **6**:1-13 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/1756-3305-6-71>.
10. Stone C, Gross K: **Evolution of host preference in anthropophilic mosquitoes.** *Malar J* 2018, **17**:1-11 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12936-018-2407-1>.  
Using a theoretical approach, the authors highlight the importance of evolutionary processes in relation to the field implementation of control tools, and how these processes may add important information into policies against vector borne disease control.
11. De Roode JC, Lefèvre T: **Behavioral immunity in insects.** *Insects* 2012, **3**:789-820.
12. Taylor B: **Changes in the feeding behaviour of a malaria vector, *Anopheles farauti* Lav., following use of DDT as a residual spray in houses in the British Solomon Islands protectorate.** *Trans R Entomol Soc Lond* 1975, **127**:277-292.
13. Thomsen EK, Koimbu G, Pulford J, Jamea-Maiasa S, Ura Y, Keven JB, Siba PM, Mueller I, Hetzel MW, Reimer LJ: **Mosquito behavior change after distribution of bednets results in decreased protection against malaria exposure.** *J Infect Dis* 2017, **215**:790-797.
14. Russell TL, Govella NJ, Azizi S, Drakeley CJ, Kachur SP, Killeen GF: **Increased proportions of outdoor feeding among residual malaria vector populations following increased use of insecticide-treated nets in rural Tanzania.** *Malar J* 2011, **10**:80.
15. Bayoh MN, Walker ED, Kosgei J, Ombok M, Olang GB, Githeko AK, Killeen GF, Otieno P, Desai M, Lobo NF et al.: **Persistently high estimates of late night, indoor exposure to malaria vectors despite high coverage of insecticide treated nets.** *Parasit Vectors* 2014, **7**:1-13 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/1756-3305-7-380>.
16. Moiroux N, Gomez MB, Pennetier C, Elanga E, Djènontin A, Chandre F, Djègbé I, Guis H, Corbel V: **Changes in *Anopheles funestus* biting behavior following universal coverage of long-lasting insecticidal nets in Benin.** *J Infect Dis* 2012, **206**:1622-1629 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/infdis/jis565>.
17. Meyers JL, Pathikonda S, Popkin-Hall ZR, Medeiros MC, Fuseini G, Matias A, Garcia G, Overgaard HJ, Kulkarni V, Reddy VP et al.: **Increasing outdoor host-seeking in *Anopheles gambiae* over 6 years of vector control on Bioko Island.** *Malar J* 2016, **15**:1-13 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12936-016-1286-6>.
18. Bøgh C, Pedersen EM, Mukoko DA, Ouma JH: **Permethrin-impregnated bednet effects on resting and feeding behaviour of lymphatic filariasis vector mosquitoes in Kenya.** *Med Vet Entomol* 1998, **12**:52-59.
19. Ndenga BA, Mulaya NL, Musaki SK, Shiroko JN, Dongus S, Fillinger U: **Malaria vectors and their blood-meal sources in an area of high bed net ownership in the western Kenya highlands.** *Malar J* 2016, **15**:1-10 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12936-016-1115-y>.
20. Waite JL, Swain S, Lynch PA, Sharma SK, Haque MA, Montgomery J, Thomas MB: **Increasing the potential for malaria elimination by targeting zoophilic vectors.** *Sci Rep* 2017, **7**:1-10 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/srep40551>.
21. Gerold J, Laarman J: **Selection of some strains of *Anopheles atroparvus* with different behavioural responses to contacts with DDT.** *Nature* 1964, **4957**:500-501.
22. Maliszewska J, Te?gowska E: **A comparison of the effectiveness of insecticides in constant and variable thermal conditions.** *Int J Pest Manag* 2017, **63**:331-340.
23. Abram PK, Boivin G, Moiroux J, Brodeur J: **Behavioural effects of temperature on ectothermic animals: unifying thermal physiology and behavioural plasticity.** *Biol Rev* 2017, **92**:1859-1876.
24. De Roode JC, Hunter MD: **Self-medication in insects: when altered behaviors of infected insects are a defense instead of a parasite manipulation.** *Curr Opin Insect Sci* 2018, **33**:1-6.
25. de Roode JC, Lefèvre T, Hunter MD: **Ecology. Self-medication in animals.** *Science (80-)* 2013, **340**:150-151.
26. Cutler C: **Insects, insecticides and hormesis: evidence and considerations for study.** *Dose Response* 2013, **11**:154-177.
27. Porciani A, Diop M, Moiroux N, Kadoke-Lambi T, Cohuet A, Chandre F, Dormont L, Pennetier C: **Influence of pyrethroid-treated bed net on host seeking behavior of *Anopheles gambiae* s.s. carrying the *kdr* allele.** *PLoS One* 2017, **12**.
28. Moiroux N, Chandre F, Hougard JM, Corbel V, Pennetier C: **Remote effect of insecticide-treated nets and the personal protection against malaria mosquito bites.** *PLoS One* 2017, **12**:1-13.

This paper reports on the variability of the repellency effects of ITNs implemented in the field before and after washing and reveals that in some cases some ITNs become attractive. This observation indirectly introduces the idea of the potential behavioural exploitation by mosquitoes of control methods.

29. Strode C, Donegan S, Garner P, Enayati AA, Hemingway J: **The impact of pyrethroid resistance on the efficacy of insecticide-treated bed nets against african anopheline mosquitoes: systematic review and meta-analysis.** *PLoS Med* 2014, **11**.
  30. Ngufor C, N'Guessan R, Fagbohoun J, Todjinou D, Odjo A, Malone D, Ismail H, Akogbeto MC, Rowland M: **Efficacy of the Olyset Duo net against insecticide-resistant mosquito vectors of malaria.** *Sci Transl Med* 2016, **8**.
  31. Toe KH, Müller P, Badolo A, Traore A, Sagnon N, Dabiré RK, Ranson H: **Do bednets including piperonyl butoxide offer additional protection against populations of *Anopheles gambiae* s.l. that are highly resistant to pyrethroids? An experimental hut evaluation in Burkina Faso.** *Med Vet Entomol* 2018, **32**:407-416.
  32. Wang SP, Althoff DM: **Phenotypic plasticity facilitates initial colonization of a novel environment.** *Evolution (N Y)* 2019, **73**:303-316 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/evo.13676>.
  33. Chevin LM, Lande R, Mace GM: **Adaptation, plasticity, and extinction in a changing environment: towards a predictive theory.** *PLoS Biol* 2010, **8**.
  34. Gentile C, Rivas GBS, Lima JBP, Bruno RV, Peixoto AA: **Circadian clock of *Aedes aegypti*: effects of blood-feeding, insemination and RNA interference.** *Mem Inst Oswaldo Cruz* 2013, **108**:80-87.
  35. Leming MT, Rund SSC, Behura SK, Duffield GE, O'Tousa JE: **A database of circadian and diel rhythmic gene expression in the yellow fever mosquito *Aedes aegypti*.** *BMC Genomics* 2014, **15**:1-9.
  36. Rund SSC, Hou TY, Ward SM, Collins FH, Duffield GE: **Genome-wide profiling of diel and circadian gene expression in the malaria vector *Anopheles gambiae*.** *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 2011, **108**:E421-E430.
  37. Rund SSC, Bonar NA, Champion MM, Ghazi JP, Houk CM, Leming MT, Syed Z, Duffield GE: **Daily rhythms in antennal protein and olfactory sensitivity in the malaria mosquito *Anopheles gambiae*.** *Sci Rep* 2013, **3**:1-9.
  38. Eilerts DF, Vandergiesen M, Bose EA, Broxton K, Vinauger C: **Odor-specific daily rhythms in the olfactory sensitivity and behavior of *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes.** *Insects* 2018, **9**:1-13 <http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/insects9040147>.
  39. Maliti DV, Marsden CD, Main BJ, Govella NJ, Yamasaki Y, Collier TC, Kreppel K, Chiu JC, Lanzaro GC, Ferguson HM *et al.*: **Investigating associations between biting time in the malaria vector *Anopheles arabiensis* patton and single nucleotide polymorphisms in circadian clock genes: support for sub-structure among *An. arabiensis* in the Kilombero valley of Tanzania.** *Parasit Vectors* 2016, **9**:1-15.
  40. Main BJ, Lee Y, Ferguson HM, Kreppel KS, Kihonda A, Govella NJ, Collier TC, Cornel AJ, Eskin E, Kang EY *et al.*: **The genetic basis of host preference and resting behavior in the major African malaria vector, *Anopheles arabiensis*.** *PLoS Genet* 2016, **12**:1-17 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgen.1006303>.
- This paper unveils the presence of genetic determinants for host choice but not for endophagy or exophagy in *An. arabiensis*. It reveals the association between zoophylic behaviour and allele variability of particular genes, and raises the idea of deciphering genetic markers predicting the transmission potential of mosquito populations.
41. Wolff GH, Riffell JA: **Olfaction, experience and neural mechanisms underlying mosquito host preference.** *J Exp Biol* 2018, **221** jeb157131.
  42. McBride CS: **Genes and odors underlying the recent evolution of mosquito preference for humans.** *Curr Biol* 2016, **26**:R41-R46.
  43. Athrey G, Cosme LV, Popkin-Hall Z, Pathikonda S, Takken W, Slotman MA: **Chemosensory gene expression in olfactory organs of the anthropophilic *Anopheles coluzzii* and zoophilic *Anopheles quadriannulatus*.** *BMC Genomics* 2017, **18**:1-14.
  44. Gillies MT: **Selection for host preference in *Anopheles gambiae*.** *Nature* 1964, **203**:852-854.
  45. McBride CS, Baier F, Omondi AB, Spitzer SA, Lutomiah J, Sang R, Ignell R, Vosshall LB: **Evolution of mosquito preference for humans linked to an odorant receptor.** *Nature* 2014, **515**:222-227.
  46. Lefèvre T, Gouagna L, Dabiré KR, Elguero E, Fontenille D, Renaud F, Costantini C, Thomas F: **Beyond nature and nurture: phenotypic plasticity in blood-feeding behavior of *Anopheles gambiae* s.s. when humans are not readily accessible.** *Trop Med* 2009, **81**:1023-1029.
  47. Vantaux A, Lefèvre T, Dabiré KR, Cohuet A: **Individual experience affects host choice in malaria vector mosquitoes.** *Parasit Vectors* 2014, **7**.
  48. Vinauger C, Lahondère C, Cohuet A, Lazzari CR, Riffell JA: **Learning and memory in disease vector insects.** *Trends Parasitol* 2016, **32**.
  49. Chilaka N, Perkins E, Triplet F: **Visual and olfactory associative learning in the malaria vector *Anopheles gambiae sensu stricto*.** *Malar J* 2012, **11**:1-11.
  50. Bernáth B, Anstett V, Guerin PM: ***Anopheles gambiae* females readily learn to associate complex visual cues with the quality of sugar sources.** *J Insect Physiol* 2016, **95**:8-16.
  51. Menda G, Uhr JH, Wyttenbach RA, Vermeylen FM, Smith DM, Harrington LC, Hoy RR: **Associative learning in the dengue vector mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*: avoidance of a previously attractive odor or surface color that is paired with an aversive stimulus.** *J Exp Biol* 2013, **216**:218-223.
  52. Vinauger C, Lahondère C, Wolff GH, Locke LT, Liaw JE, Parrish JZ, Akbari OS, Dickinson MH, Riffell JA: **Modulation of host learning in *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes.** *Curr Biol* 2018, **28**:333-344.e8.
- Elucidates how olfactory associative learning can greatly contribute to mosquito host choice and host preferences. In addition, it describes the role of dopaminergic neurons in learning.
53. Vinauger C, Lutz EK, Riffell JA: **Olfactory learning and memory in the disease vector mosquito *Aedes aegypti*.** *J Exp Biol* 2014, **217**:2321-2330.
  54. Chareonviriyaphap T, Roberts DR, Andre RG, Harlan HJ, Manguin S, Bangs MJ: **Pesticide avoidance behavior in *Anopheles albimanus*, a malaria vector in the Americas.** *J Am Mosq Control Assoc* 1997, **13**:171-183.
  55. Paeporn P, Supaphathom K, Sathantriphop S, Chareonviriyaphap T, Yaicharoen R: **Behavioural responses of deltamethrin and permethrin.** *Dengue Bull* 2007, **31**:153-159.
  56. Ritthison W, Titgratog R, Tainchum K, Bangs MJ, Manguin S, Chareonviriyaphap T: **Pyrethroid susceptibility and behavioral avoidance in *Anopheles epiroticus*, a malaria vector in Thailand.** *J Vector Ecol* 2014, **39**:32-43.
  57. Parker JEA, Angarita-Jaimes N, Abe M, Towers CE, Towers D, McCall PJ: **Infrared video tracking of *Anopheles gambiae* at insecticide-treated bed nets reveals rapid decisive impact after brief localised net contact.** *Sci Rep* 2015, **5**:1-14.
  58. Knaden M, Strutz A, Ahsan J, Sachse S, Hansson BS: **Spatial representation of odorant valence in an insect brain.** *Cell Rep* 2012, **1**:392-399.
  59. Achee NL, Sardelis MR, Dusfour I, Chauhan KR, Grieco JP: **Characterization of spatial repellent, contact irritant, and toxicant chemical actions of standard vector control compounds.** *J Am Mosq Control Assoc* 2009, **25**:156-167.
  60. Neafsey DE, Waterhouse RM, Abai MR, Aganezov SS, Alekseyev MA, Allen JE, Amon J, Arcà B, Arensburger P, Artemov G *et al.*: **Highly evolvable malaria vectors: the genomes of 16 *Anopheles* mosquitoes.** *Science (80-)* 2015, **347**.
- In this highly collaborative study, the authors sequenced and assembled the genomes and transcriptomes of 16 *Anopheles* mosquitoes from around the world. Data, from this study can be used to, compare the different species and elucidate the genetic characteristics associated with vector capacity.