

Mosquitos: A model organism for integrating ecology, political ecology, and public health

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Being a specialist is of great value. However, increasingly there are situations where one must put on multiple hats to understand a system better. In this talk, I will share my development as a researcher, first in trying to understand mosquito ecology, and then understand how lack of social equity (among humans) leads to differences in disease risks. I will introduce you to some simple mesocosm studies aimed at understanding how biotic and abiotic factors affect mosquito oviposition decisions. I will then try to show you why it is equally important and exciting when one integrates social sciences with classical ecology in order to address and understand vector-borne diseases in peri-urban landscapes.

