

Analysis of the genetic variation of the *An. culicifacies* and *An. subpictus* complexes in Sri Lanka using DNA based techniques

By

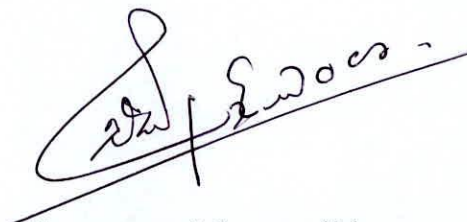
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Thesis submitted to the University of Sri Jayewardenepure for
the award of the Degree of Master of Philosophy in Zoology

On 30th August 2005.

Declaration by the candidate

The work described in this thesis was carried out by me under the supervision of Dr. B. G. D. N. K. de Silva, Prof. E. H. Karunanayake and Prof. S. Fernando and a report on this has not been submitted in whole or in part to any university or any other institution for another Degree/Diploma.

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Signature of the candidate

Declaration by supervisors

We certify that the above statement made by the candidate is true and that this thesis is suitable for submission to the University for the purpose of evaluation.

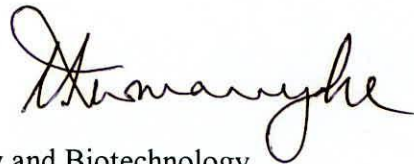
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IV. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

A.M.C	Anti Malaria Campaign
ATP	Adenosine Tri Phosphate
BSA	Bovine Serum Albumin
CaCl ₂	Calcium Chloride
CDC	Centre for Disease Control
DDT	Dichloro diphenyl trichloroethane
DTT	Dithiothreitol
DMSO	Dimethylsulphoxide
DNA	Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid
dNTP	Deoxy Nucleotide Tri Phosphate
DoD	Department of Defence(USA)
EDTA	Ethylenediaminetetraacetic Acid
ELISA	Enzyme Linked Immunosorbant Assay
GMT	Greenwich Median Time
hr	hour
IAA	Isoamyl Alcohol
IPTG	Isopropyl beta-D-thiogalactopyranoside
ITS2	2 nd Internal Transcribed Spacer
Kb	Kilo base
LB	Luria Bertani medium
MgCl ₂	Magnesium Chloride

MgSO ₄	Magnesium Sulphate
mM	Mili Molar
NaCl	Sodium Chloride
ng	Nano Grams
NIAID	National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
NTS	Non Transcribed Spacer
OD	Optical Density
PBS	Plasmid Bluescript
RNA	Ribose Nucleic Acid
SDS	Sodium Dodecyle Sulphate
SSC	Standard Saline Citrate
TAE	Tris Acetate EDTA
TBE	Tris Borate EDTA
TE	Tris EDTA
TEMED	N, N, N --tetramethylethylenediamine
Tris	Tris (hydroxymethyl) aminomethane
Rp	Repetitive (sequence)
rpm	revolutions per minute
U	Unit
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organisation
X-gal	5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl beta-D-galacto pyranoside
μg	Microgram
μl	Micro litres

V. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First of all I am very grateful to Dr. Maya Gunsekara for teaching me ABC of molecular biology and showing me the way to the research field.

I express my deep gratitude to Professor Eric H. Karunanayake, for being a kind supervisor for me and making arrangements for me to work in Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo and as well as in the Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (IBMBB).

I express my grate gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Nissanka de Silva for his wonderful guidance for the completion of the research by being chief scientific investigator and his valuable encouragements at my difficult moments.

I am very grateful to Professor Sirimalee Fernando for her advice and support as a supervisor in this study.

I would like to thank Mr. Nobel Surendren, Ms. Chammi Munesinge, Ms. Gayathri Weerasuriya and Mr. T.A. Abhayawardana for providing me specimens for this study.

I wish to thank the staff of Faculty of Graduate studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura for helping me in the administrative problems arose in the period of research study.

Thanks are also due to the staff of the Department of Zoology, Faculty of Applied sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura for their kind assistance.

I thank the research group of IBMBB for helping me in numerous occasions with my work.

I would like to thank the technical staff of Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo and the technical staff of

IBMBB, specially Mr. C.S.P. Abeysinghe for his technical assistance throughout the study.

I remind the financial support that received from National Science Foundation under the grant SIDA/98/BT/03 for the first two years of this study and then this work is supported by Swedish Agency for the Cooperation with Developing countries (SAREC) grant for the Capacity building in Biotechnology and International programme in Chemical Sciences (CBICS), University of Uppsala, Sweden.

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ABSTRACT

Anopheles culicifacies s.l. is the major vector while *Anopheles subpictus* s.l. is the most important secondary vector of malaria in Sri Lanka. *An. culicifacies* is known to exist as a complex of five sibling species A, B, C, D and E in India, the neighbouring country. Karyotyping has revealed the presence of *An. culicifacies* B and E sympatric in Sri Lanka. Previous studies revealed that in Sri Lanka, sp. E is predominant and act as the vector while sp. B is less common and act as a non vector or is having a least vector potential. *An. subpictus* complex consists at least of four sibling sp. naming A, B, C and D those who could be differentiated by morphological characteristics of eggs, larvae and adults. All the members of this complex are present in Sri Lanka. Sp. B prefers saline water and sp. D prefers fresh water while sp. A and C don't show any preferences.

Cloned Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) fragments of the ribosomal Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) second internal transcribed spacer of available members of above species complexes were sequenced. Sequences of two complexes were analysed separately using Bio Edit Sequence Alignment Editor 6.0.5. Previously developed DNA probes were manipulated to check any difference in hybridization between *An. culicifacies* B and E DNA.

An. culicifacies B and E had identical ITS2 sequences. Phylogenetic tree generated using ITS2 sequences of *An. culicifacies* complex available in the web revealed that members of the complex evolving in two different lines: sp. A and D in a one lineage and sp. B, C and E in the other. Secondary structure predictions from their ITS2 region showed identical folding patterns among B, C and E as well as very similar secondary structures of A and D. Structural analogy of those secondary structures showed a functional stability of ITS2 region among *An. culicifacies* complex which led to a slow evolution rate of that region. Therefore, it is difficult to display genetic variation through analysis of ITS2 of *An. culicifacies* complex. Also hybridization with the DNA probe exhibited a similar pattern between sp. B and E.

An. subpictus complex could be categorized into two groups based on PCR assay: sp. A and C into one group and B and D into the other. Different ITS2 sequences could be seen among members. Sp. B could be clearly separated from sp. A, C and D based on the ITS2 sequence dissimilarities. Phylogenetic tree showed that *An. subpictus* B is evolving in a separate evolutionary line and could easily distinguish from other members of the complex.