

New mosquito in Africa raises malaria concerns

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Researchers have found a new mosquito in the west African nation of Burkina Faso that appears to be highly susceptible to malaria parasites and could help the disease spread, said a study Thursday.

The new subtype of *Anopheles gambiae* mosquitoes is believed to live mainly in the wild, whereas other species collected by scientists have been plucked from indoors where they are easier to find.

Researchers grew generations of the new type in the lab and found it be more susceptible to the *Plasmodium falciparum* parasite, linked to [malaria](#), than other types they had previously found and classified.

"Adult mosquitoes raised directly from wild larvae were fed on blood infected with wild *P. falciparum*," said the study in the [journal Science](#).

The outdoor mosquitoes showed a "significantly greater" infection rate (58 percent) compared to the indoor types (35 percent).

Previous research in Nigeria in the 1970s showed that efforts to control malaria failed because outdoor-resting mosquitoes allowed malaria to perpetuate despite the use of indoor insecticides.

Researchers said the new type's susceptibility to malaria could mean it is "quite young, evolutionarily," and urged the collection of more adult [mosquitoes](#) in the wild for further analysis.

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