

# Brazil scientists: *Culex* mosquito not transmitting Zika

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In this Jan. 27, 2016 file photo, an *Aedes aegypti* mosquito known to carry the Zika virus, is photographed through a microscope at the Fiocruz institute in Recife, Pernambuco state, Brazil. The U.N. health agency is changing its advice to travelers returning from areas facing a Zika virus outbreak, saying both men and women should now practice safe sex or abstinence for six months. (AP Photo/Felipe Dana, File)

Brazilian researchers say they have concluded that the common *Culex*

mosquito is not transmitting Zika, the rapidly spreading virus that has been linked to severe birth defects.

Rio de Janeiro's Fiocruz institute reported Tuesday that the *Culex quinquefasciatus* mosquito has not played a role in the Zika epidemic that has hit Brazil over the last year.

For the study, researchers gathered and fed several hundred mosquitoes from four areas in Rio Zika-infected blood. Only two showed an early infection 14 days later, and the virus was not detected on their heads or in their saliva.

*Culex* is 20 times more common than the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the main spreader of Zika. The *Aedes* also transmits [dengue fever](#) and [chikungunya](#).

Previous studies have suggested *Culex* may not be effective at spreading Zika.

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