

## **RESIDENTIAL BACKYARDS – PLACES FOR THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE MOSQUITO SPECIES**

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**Abstract** Monitoring of invasive mosquito species in Eastern Croatia, Brod-Posavina County, has been conducted since 2016 as part of the national monitoring of invasive mosquito species in Croatia, with the aim of creating a unique national database to estimate the risk of spreading vector-borne diseases. This five-year study focuses on community participation among the sanitation of private properties as potential places for the spread of invasive mosquito species. In residential backyards, the average number of eggs changed during the years and ranged from 96 to 1782 per oviposition trap. Also, the number of eggs collected in private backyards accounted from 16 to 40% of the total number of eggs at all locations through each season. Oscillations in the numbers were a consequence of different weather conditions, but also the effectiveness of the mosquito breeding site control. These data testify the lack of local community participation in preventing the reproduction and spreading of *Aedes albopictus* and *Aedes japonicus*. They also point to.

**Key words** National monitoring, *Aedes* species, community participation