

PREFACE

Mosquitoes belong to Order - Diptera, family - culicidae which contain about 3500 described species of mosquitoes all over the world. Mosquitoes are soft bodied, wide spread and diversified taxonomical group of insects. They act as important vectors for many diseases like malaria, Japanese encephalitis, filariasis, yellow fever, dengue, chikungunya etc. Hence, any advance knowledge on their taxonomy, seasonal abundance and distribution have practical utility in adopting appropriate control measures of mosquitoes and solving the problem related to human health care.

In the present text, attempts have been made on taxonomical descriptions, check list and distribution of mosquitoes in Southern Maharashtra (Districts : Kolhapur, Sangli and Solapur). In all, 48 species of mosquitoes have been reported from Southern Maharashtra of which 36 species were common and 12 species were rare. In this text, 17 species of mosquitoes were newly described and 4 species were redescribed. This work will be useful for students, teachers, officers and scientists in entomology and epidemiology.



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