ABSTRACT

The scenario of mosquito-borne diseases in Kerala had changed a lot since 1930s. In the wake of 1990, malaria had re-emerged in many places and Anopheles stephensi mosquito showed its first appearance in few districts. Arbo-viral diseases like Japanese Encephalitis and Dengue fever also emerged in many of the districts in the mid nineteen nineties. By the year 2000, a hike in the reporting of many of these diseases had occurred. The situations demanded clarifications to many quarries related to vector mosquitoes, their distribution, density status, host preference and resting habits.

Present research work was designed as a survey and carried out longitudinally for five years from September 2002 to August 2007 in the settings of Thiruvananthapuram and Kottayam Districts in Kerala. The broad objectives were in-depth study of prevalence and distribution of mosquitoes, species composition, diversity, density fluctuations over seasons, resting habit and host seeking behavior with reference to major established and suspected vectors.

Multi-stage random sampling was applied to select study areas. Sampling of mosquitoes was done utilizing standard techniques adopted from World Health Organization. Analyses were done by Anova, Correlation and Standardization tests. The study revealed information on nearly three dozen species of mosquitoes, belonging to eight Genera.

Key words:

Malaria, Anopheles stephensi, Japanese Encephalitis, Dengue fever, Species Composition, Diversity, Density fluctuations, Established and Suspected Vectors.