

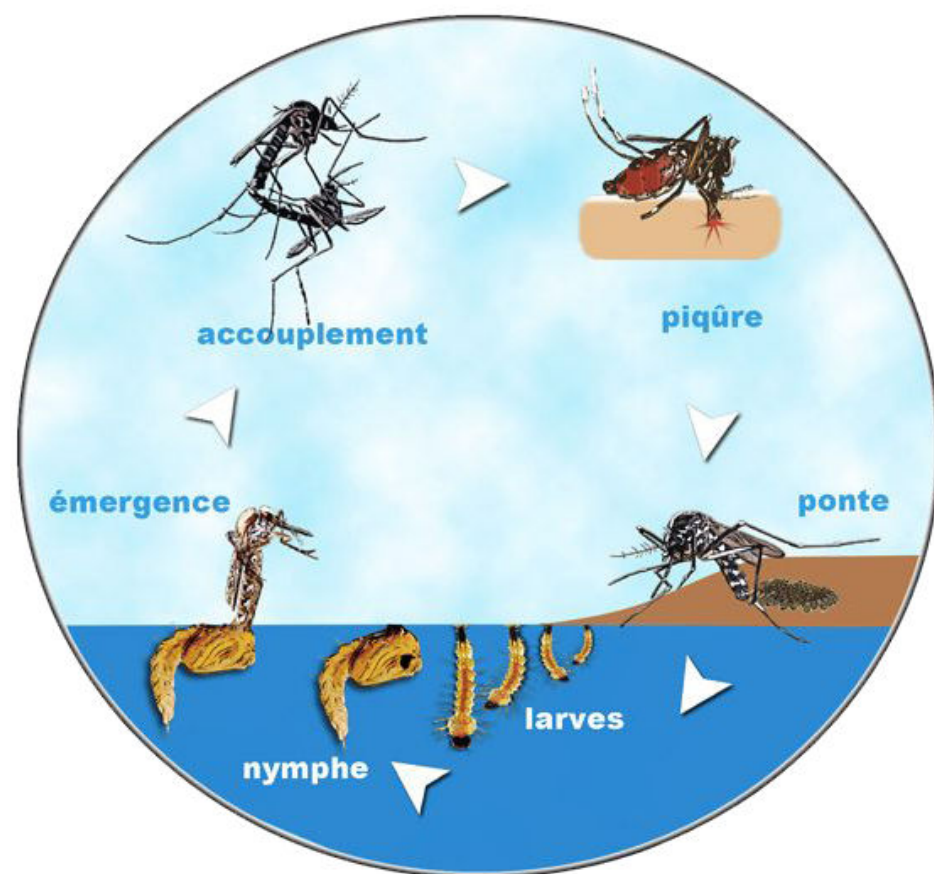
Mosquito

Latin name : Culicidae

Size : 3 to 6 mm

Lifespan : a bit less than 2 months

The only mosquitoes that bite us and consume our blood are the females. The proteins in our blood are used to form eggs, which they then lay. To find hosts, they use an organ called the maxillary palp, located near their mandibles. This is a sensory organ that detects CO2 and therefore, by following the smell, a host.



There are four stages in the mosquito's life cycle. The eggs are laid in the water at the surface, in groups of 100 to 400 eggs that float. Once hatched, the larvae feed on micro-organisms and algae. After 5 to 14 days, the larvae become chrysalises, a stage in which they do not eat and reorganise their bodies, rather like a butterfly in a cocoon. They float and can escape danger by diving. A few days later, when the moult is ready, the adult mosquito emerges. Before it can fly away, it remains at the surface to dry its wings.