

MediLabSecure (WP4) - Newsletter n°5 - April 2016

Dear network members,

To keep you updated of what's going on within the MediLabSecure project, here is few information.



NEWS FROM MLS.ENTOMO

Entomological issues

> ***Aedes albopictus* new distribution.** *Ae. albopictus* is present in Oran (Algeria), and in Rabat (Morocco). It is also present in the Italian islands 50 km off the Tunisian coast. With colleagues from Turkey and Georgia, during a field mission organized through VectorNet in Sept 2015, we also found this species in North East Turkey and West Georgia.

> ***Aedes aegypti* new distribution.** With colleagues from Turkey and Georgia, during a field mission organized through VectorNet in Sept 2015 we found this species in North East Turkey and Georgia.

> **Zika virus.** Please find a synthesis of discussions on the mailing-list regarding Zika virus information (January 2016) with resources.

> **Electronic identification key for mosquitoes.** A determination tool will be develop this year. Usable by non expert entomologists, this tool will be a synthesis of all the current knowledge for mosquito species determination in the whole Mediterranean/BlackSea area. We are very happy to welcome Filiz Gunay (Hacettepe University, Ankara) for few months in Montpellier who will be in charge of this achievement.

Events

> **Upcoming / Training session in Tunisia / 30 May - 3 June 2016.** The third (and last) medical entomology training will be held soon in at the Institut Pasteur of Tunis, Tunisia. We will be hosted by Pr Ali Bouattour, head of Med Entomol Lab. MediLabSecure members from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Armenia will be there.

> **Onsite visit in Algeria / 20-21 April 2016.** A new insectary has been recently built in the Institut Pasteur of Algeria with Pr Zoubir Harrat, head of Med Entomol Lab. New research programs will be developed accordingly. Intra-MediLabSecure expertise will be made by Vincent Robert (WP4) and Kathleen Victoir (WP1) on 20-21 April.

> **MediLabSecure presentation in Tunisia / 9-11 February 2016.** MediLabSecure and VectorNet have been presented during the closure meeting of the [Restus project](#), a Tunisian-Italian network for the surveillance of emerging diseases transmitted by ticks and Culicidae (mosquitoes).

Other issues

> **Translation of the exhibition 'Vectors and diseases' in Serbian and Arabic.** The exhibition is spread around the Mediterranean Basin. Currently available in French and English, it will be soon available in Serbian (translation by the University of Novi Sad thanks to Dusan Petric) and in Arabic (translation by the Institut Pasteur Tunis thanks to Fatma Khrouf). The exhibition will be present in Tunis in May/June.

MEDILABSECURE IN SHORT

> **Feedback on the mid-term meeting / 15-17 December 2015.** The mid-term meeting and technical workshop on public health was the opportunity to bring together the actors who make MediLabSecure. During this 3-day event, invited speakers shared the latest breakthroughs regarding West Nile virus, as an example of vector-borne disease of concern in the Region, and they gave an overview of the disease epidemiology and surveillance. A [report](#) is available.

VECTORS WORLD

> [Using EDENext/Vmerge data](#). To help you in your researches, many datasets are available on the [VMERGE Data Portal](#) (i.e. vector data, land cover, climate data...). To access publically available data, send an email vmergedata@gmail.com with your name, profession, institution, city, country. With a short description of what data you require and what you will use it for. Please include your affiliation to either the MediLabSecure project.

ENJOY READING

> There has been a dengue epidemic in Egypt in November 2015 with *Ae. aegypti* being most probably the vector and resulting in around 300 human cases.

[Aedes aegypti re-emerging in Egypt: a review and what should be done?](#) Heikal OM, El-Bahnasawy MM, Morsy AT, Khalil HH. (2011)

> [Entomological studies of phlebotomine sand flies \(Diptera: Psychodidae\) in relation to cutaneous leishmaniasis transmission in Al Rabta, North West of Libya.](#) - Dokhan, Kenawy, Doha, El-Hosary, Shaibi, Annajar. Acta Tropica (2016)

> [MERS-CoV geography and ecology in the Middle East: analyses of reported camel exposures and a preliminary risk map](#) - Reeves, Samy, Peterson. BMC Res Notes (2015)

If you have any suggestions or information you want to share, please let us know and send an email to the discussion list mls.entomo-all@listes.ird.fr.