

[Available Issues](#) | [Japanese](#)Author: [ADVANCED](#)Volume Page Keyword: [TOP](#) > [Available Issues](#) > [Table of Contents](#) > **Abstract**

Tropical Medicine and Health

Vol. 38 (2010) , No. 1 p.1

The *Anopheles culicifacies* and *An. subpictus* species in Sri Lanka and their implications for malaria control in

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(Accepted December 26, 2009)

Abstract: *Anopheles culicifacies*, the major vector of malaria in Sri Lanka, and *An. subpictus*, a secondary vector, exist as species complexes in the country. Globally reported five sibling species (A-E) of the *An. culicifacies* complex and E have been detected in Sri Lanka. However, all four sibling species of the *An. subpictus* complex present globally are found in Sri Lanka. This article describes the characteristics of the sibling species of these two main malaria vectors, provides methods for differentiating them, and highlights the importance of understanding ecological variations among the sibling species in order to develop an effective control program in the country. It is proposed that *An. culicifacies*

evolved from species B in Sri Lanka and then spread to South India. DNA probes suitable for differentiating the sibling species of *An. culicifacies* and *An. subpictus* in field studies is identified as a particular priority for future research.

Key words: [Anopheles culicifacies](#), [Anopheles subpictus](#), [DNA species](#), [species complex](#), [vector](#), [Sri Lanka](#)

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To cite this article:

Sinnathamby Noble Surendran and Ranjan Ramasamy: "The *Anopheles subpictus* species complexes in Sri Lanka and their implications for the country". Tropical Medicine and Health, Vol. **38**, pp.1-10 (2010)

doi:10.2149/tmh.2009-12

JOI JST.JSTAGE/tmh/2009-12

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