

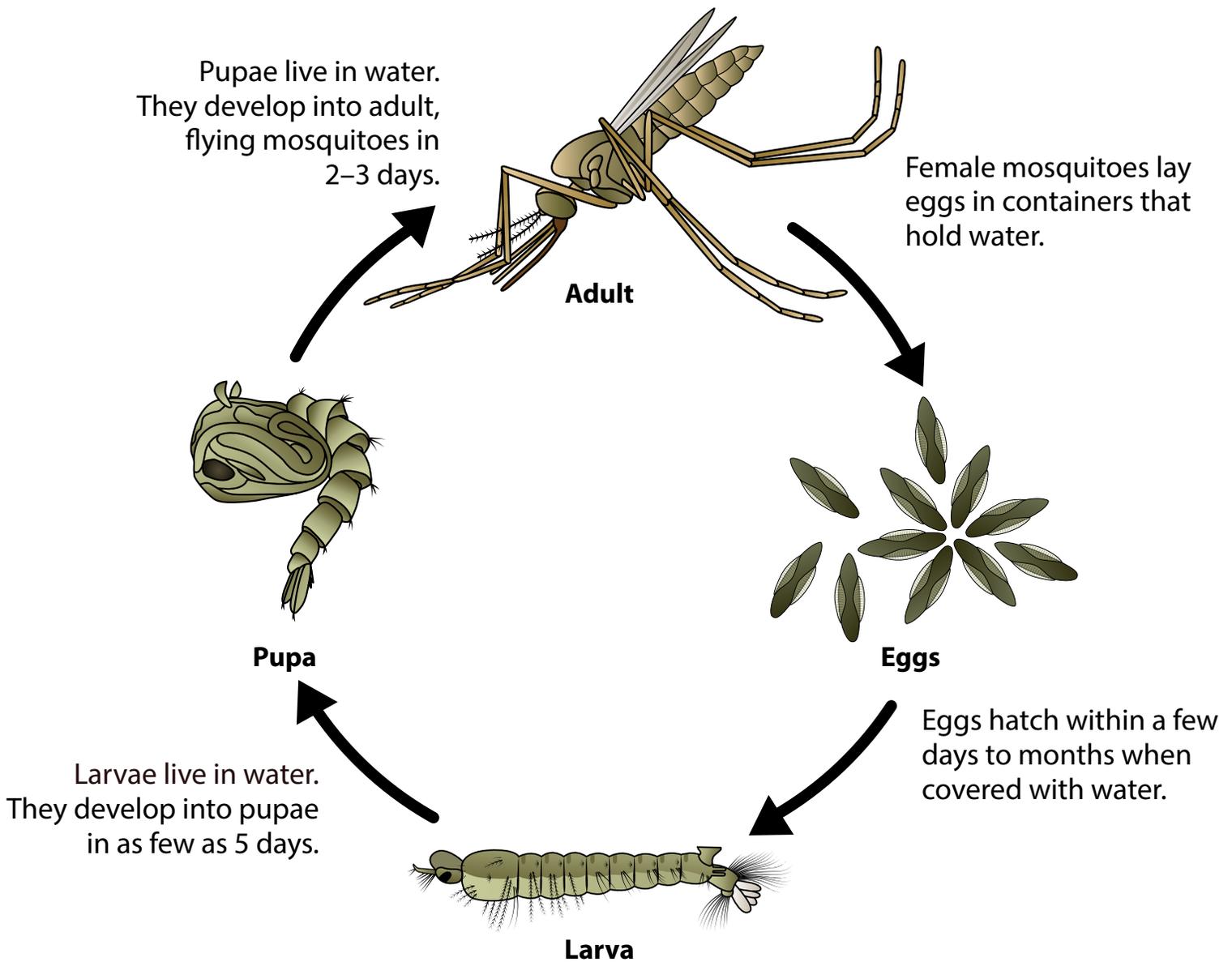
Mosquito Life Cycle



Anopheles species mosquitoes

It usually takes 10-14 days for an egg to develop into an adult mosquito.

Accessible link: <https://www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/about/life-cycles/anopheles.html>



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Life stages of *Anopheles* species mosquitoes

Eggs

- *Anopheles*, the mosquitoes that spread malaria, like to lay their eggs in marshy areas or near the banks of shallow creeks and streams.
- Adult, female mosquitoes lay eggs one at a time directly on water. The eggs float on the surface of the water.
- Adult, female mosquitoes lay 50–200 eggs at a time.
- Eggs do not tolerate drying out.

Larvae

- Larvae live in the water. They hatch from mosquito eggs.
- *Anopheles* larvae breathe by using special organs (called spiracles) located on their abdomen.
- Larvae shed their skin (molt) four times during this stage before becoming pupae.

Pupae

- Pupae live in water. Pupae do not have external mouthparts, so they do not eat during this stage.
- An adult mosquito emerges from a pupa and flies away.

Adult

- Adult, female *Anopheles* mosquitoes prefer to feed on people or animals, such as cattle. Female *Anopheles* bite people and animals, usually late in the evening or at night. Female mosquitoes need blood to produce eggs.
- Some *Anopheles* male mosquitoes fly in large swarms, usually around dusk, and the females fly in the swarms to mate.
- After blood feeding, a female mosquito rests for a few days while the blood digests and the eggs develop. After the eggs develop, the female lays them in water sources.
- *Anopheles* mosquitoes generally don't fly more than a 1.2 miles (2 km) from their larval habitats.
- *Anopheles* mosquitoes are attracted to dark, sheltered areas for resting during the daytime.

Resources

- www.cdc.gov/malaria/about/biology
- www.cdc.gov/malaria
- www.cdc.gov/parasites/lymphaticfilariasis



Eggs look like black dirt.



Larvae in the water.



A pupa in the water.



An adult mosquito emerges from a pupa.



An adult female mosquito bites a person.