

Mosquitoes have been almost completely wiped out on two Chinese islands

A population of the world's most **invasive** mosquito species was almost completely wiped out by an experiment on two islands in the southern Chinese province of Guangdong, according to a study published Wednesday.

invasive 侵入的

The experiment successfully reduced the female Asian Tiger Mosquito population — the main source of bites and disease transmission — by up to 94%, reducing the number of reported human bites by 97%.

One of the Chinese study's researchers, Xi Zhiyong, a professor at Michigan State University, has been a longtime pioneer in this field of study. Running a mosquito factory in southern China, he previously attempted to use **sterilized** male mosquitoes to mate with **unaltered** females.

sterilization 消毒; 杀菌

unaltered 未被改变的

In the new study, published by the International Journal of Science, Xi and his colleagues attempted to cut mosquito numbers even further by limiting both males and females' ability to reproduce.

The results were so successful they nearly **eradicated** the entire female mosquito population on the two islands.

eradicate 根除; 灭绝

Mosquitoes pose grave threats to human health beyond just **irritating** bites. The World Health Organization (WHO) has described the insects as "one of the deadliest animals in the world, " due to their ability to rapidly spread deadly diseases such as dengue fever and **malaria**.

irritating 刺激的; 烦人的

malaria 疟疾

There is currently no effective vaccine or treatment for most mosquito-transmitted diseases, leaving controlling the insects' populations one of the most effective control methods, according to the International Journal of Science.

"A new tool like what's being described in this paper is very much needed, " Stephen Dobson, a professor of medical *entomology* at University of Kentucky, said.

entomology 昆虫学