A photograph showing several mosquito larvae (wrigglers) swimming in a clear container of water. The larvae are elongated with dark heads and segmented bodies.

# ROLE OF VECTOR PHENOTYPIC PLASTICITY IN DISEASE TRANSMISSION AS ILLUSTRATED BY THE SPREAD OF DENGUE VIRUS BY *AEDES ALBOPICTUS*

Dominic Brass, Christina  
Cobbold, Bethan Purse,  
David Ewing, Amanda  
Callaghan, Steven White



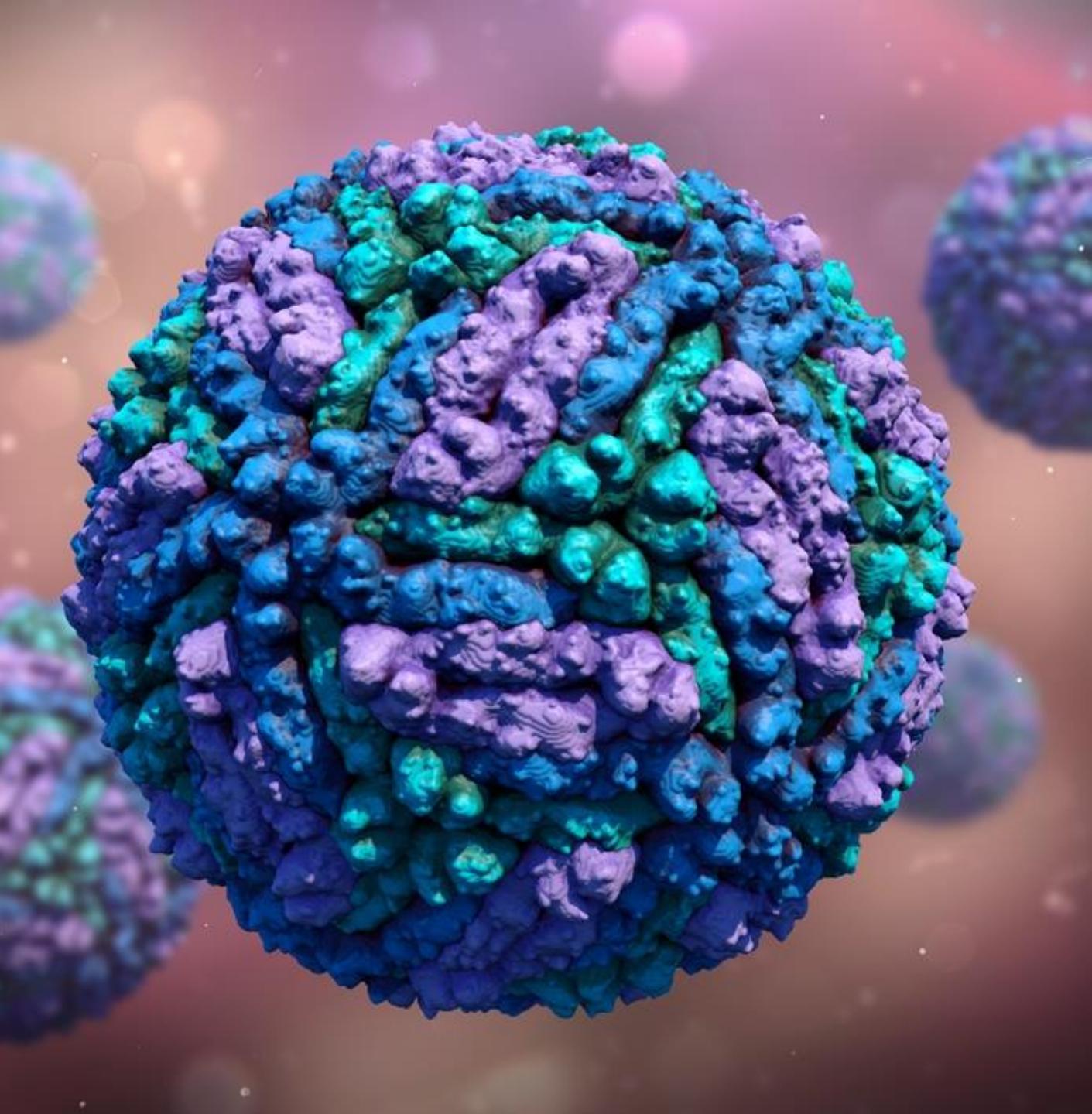
UK Centre for  
Ecology & Hydrology



# MODEL AIMS

# MODEL AIMS

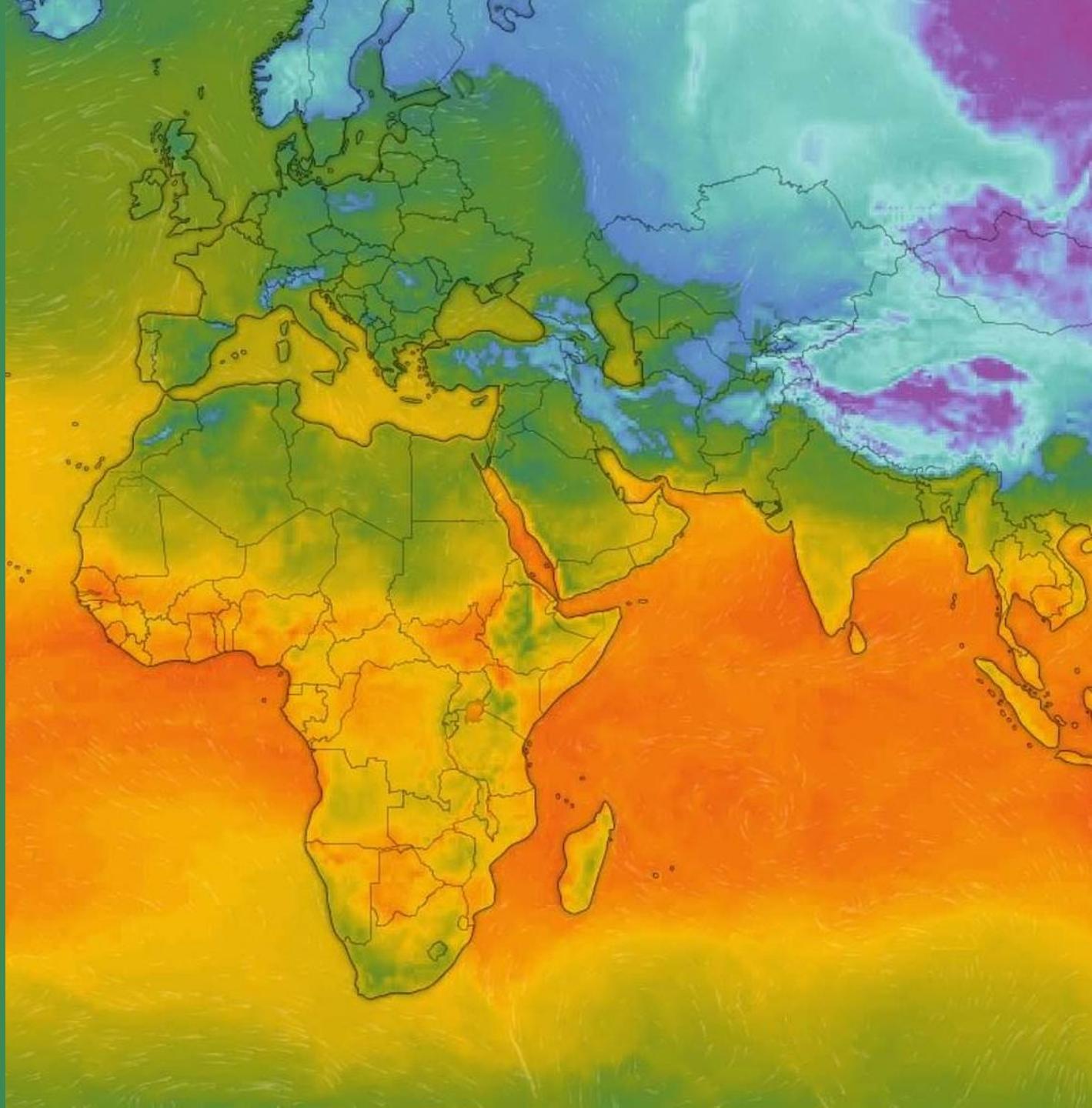
Understand patterns in *Aedes albopictus* driven dengue risk



# MODEL AIMS

Understand patterns in *Aedes albopictus* driven dengue risk

This requires understanding differences in global vector dynamics

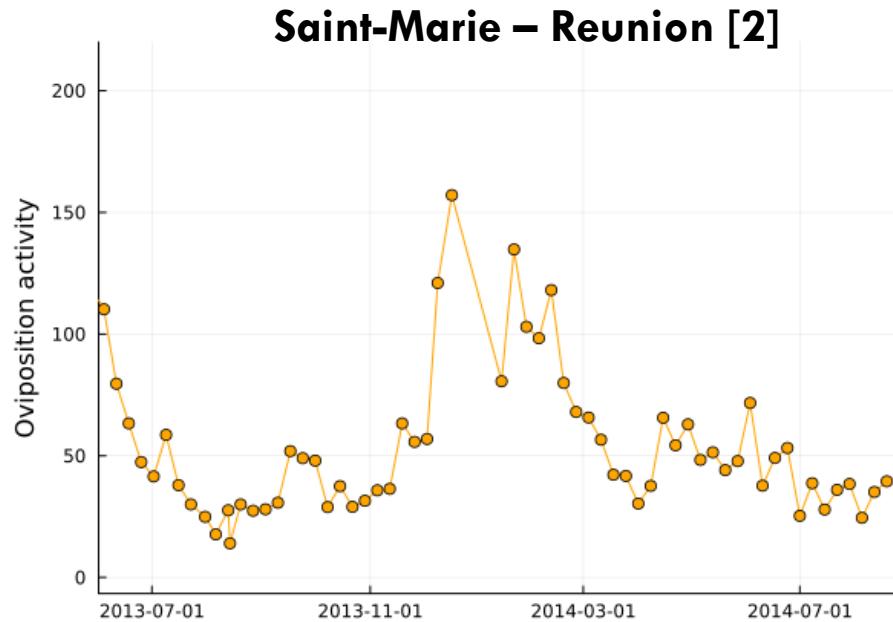
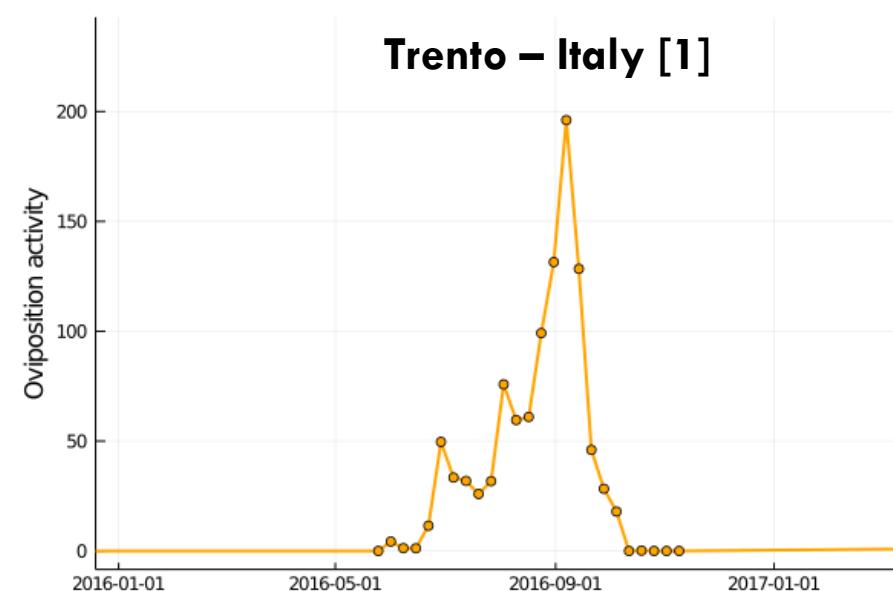


# MODEL AIMS

Understand patterns in *Aedes albopictus* driven dengue risk

This requires understanding differences in global vector dynamics

We need a model that makes predictions that generalise between environments

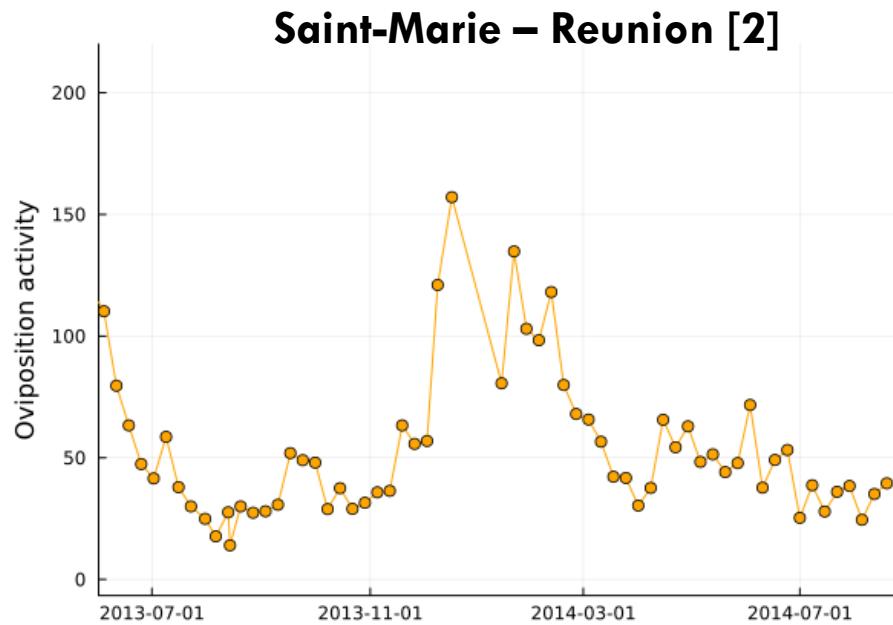
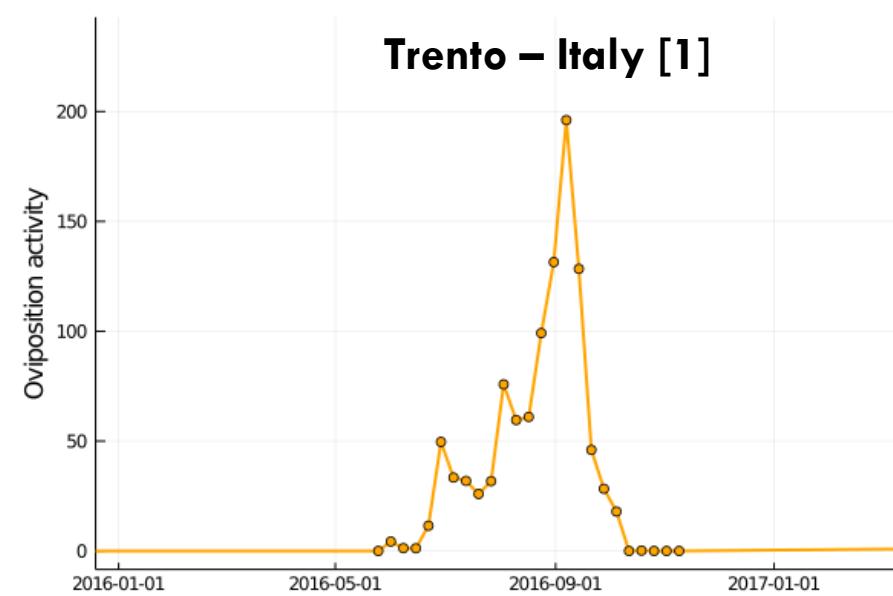


[1] Lencioni, V. et al. Multi-year dynamics of the *Aedes albopictus* occurrence in two neighbouring cities in the alps. *The European Zoological Journal* **90**, 101–112 (2023).

[2] Gouagna, L. C. et al. Strategic approach, advances, and challenges in the development and application of the SIT for area-wide control of *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes in Reunion island. *Insects* **11**, 1–24 (2020).

# THE IDEA

Accounting for density-dependence



[1] Lencioni, V. et al. Multi-year dynamics of the *Aedes albopictus* occurrence in two neighbouring cities in the alps. *The European Zoological Journal* **90**, 101–112 (2023).

[2] Gouagna, L. C. et al. Strategic approach, advances, and challenges in the development and application of the SIT for area-wide control of *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes in Reunion island. *Insects* **11**, 1–24 (2020).

# THE IDEA

Accounting for density-dependence

Traits important for disease transmission exhibit delayed density-dependence

Larval  
conditions

Temperature Competition



Adult traits

Wing length

Fecundity Survival



# THE IDEA

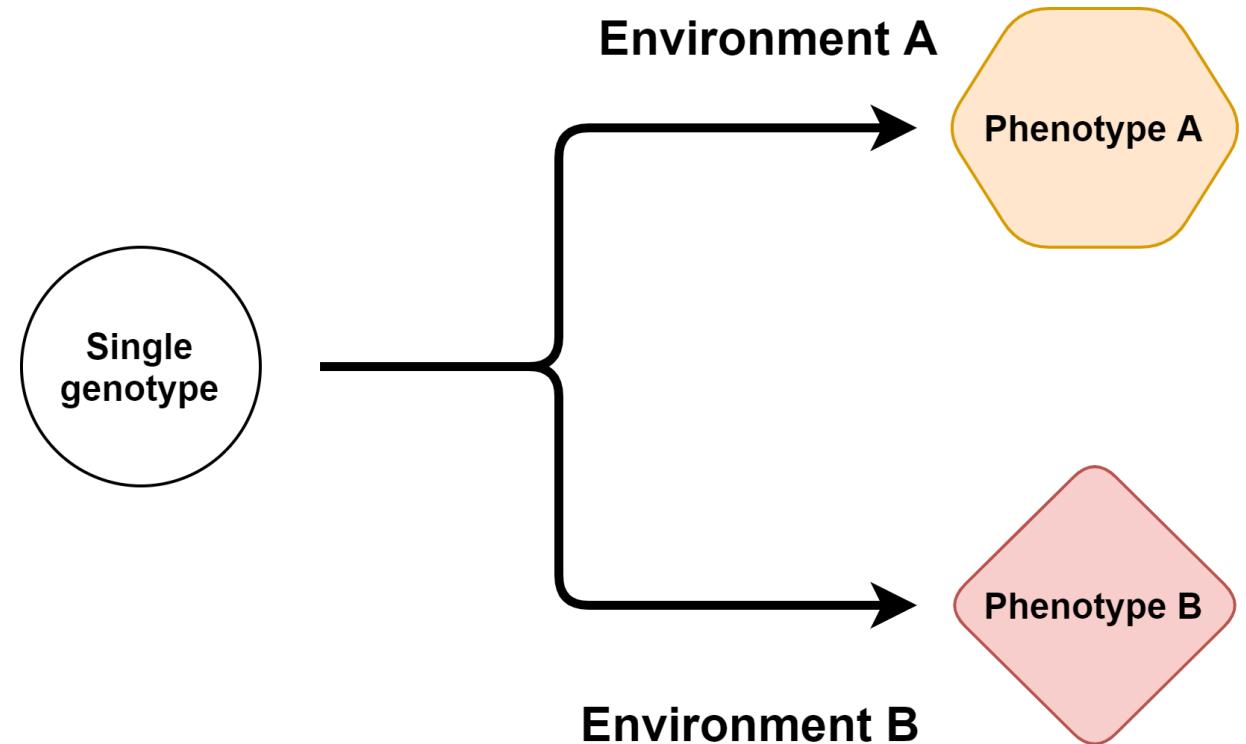
Accounting for density-dependence

Traits important for disease transmission exhibit delayed density-dependence

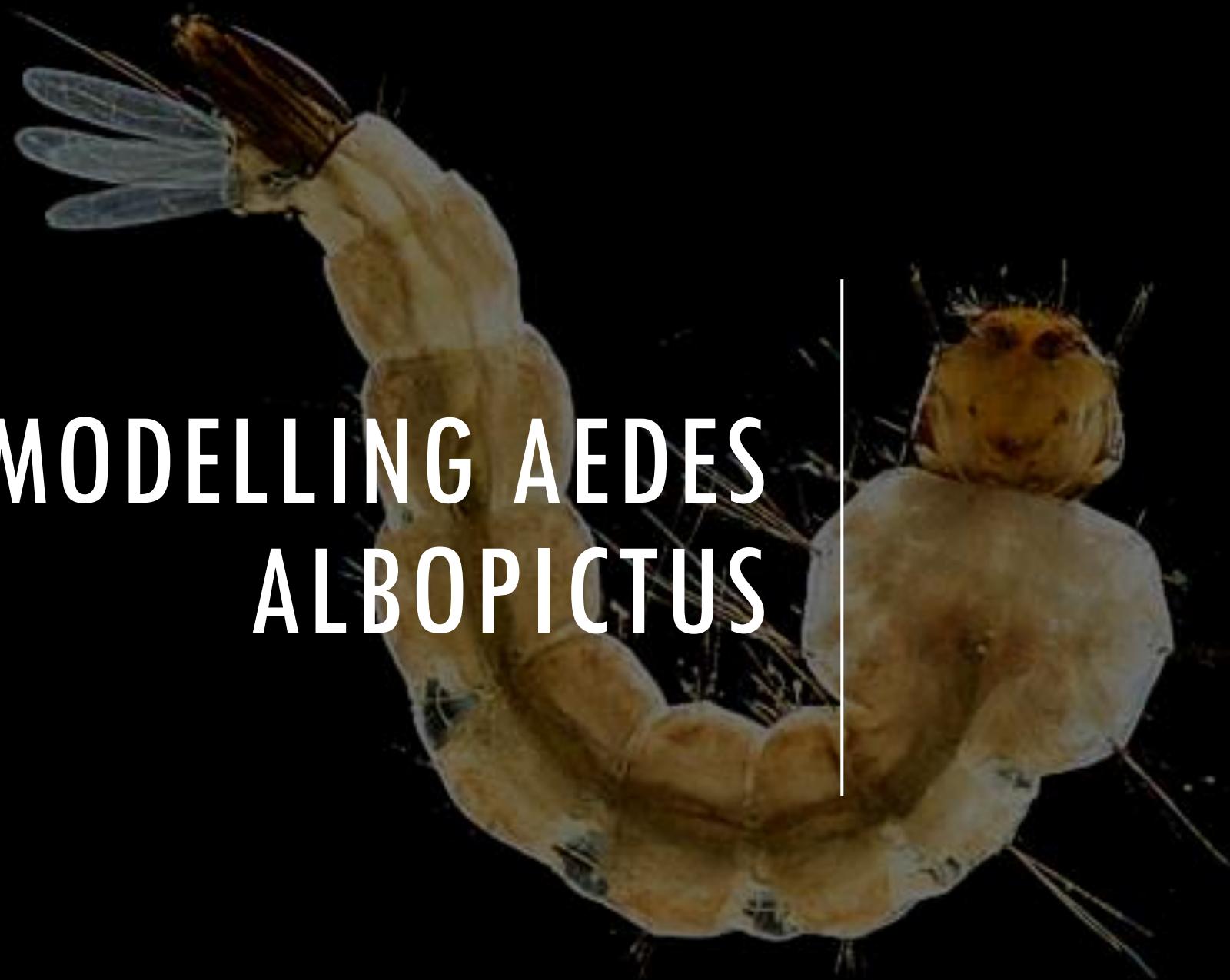
We consider the effect of developmental plasticity on disease dynamics

## Definition - Phenotypic plasticity

The ability of a single genotype to produce multiple phenotypes when exposed to different environmental conditions



# MODELLING AEDES ALBOPICTUS



# MODEL FOR AEDES ALBOPICTUS

Developed a stage-phenotypically structured system of delay-differential equations

The Systematic Formulation of Population Models for Insects with Dynamically Varying Instar Duration

R. M. NISBET AND W. S. C. GURNEY

*Department of Applied Physics, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow G4 0NG, Scotland*

Received May 26, 1982

Received: 26 November 2020 | Revised: 4 June 2021 | Accepted: 5 July 2021  
DOI: 10.1111/ele.13862

LETTER

ECOLOGY LETTERS  WILEY

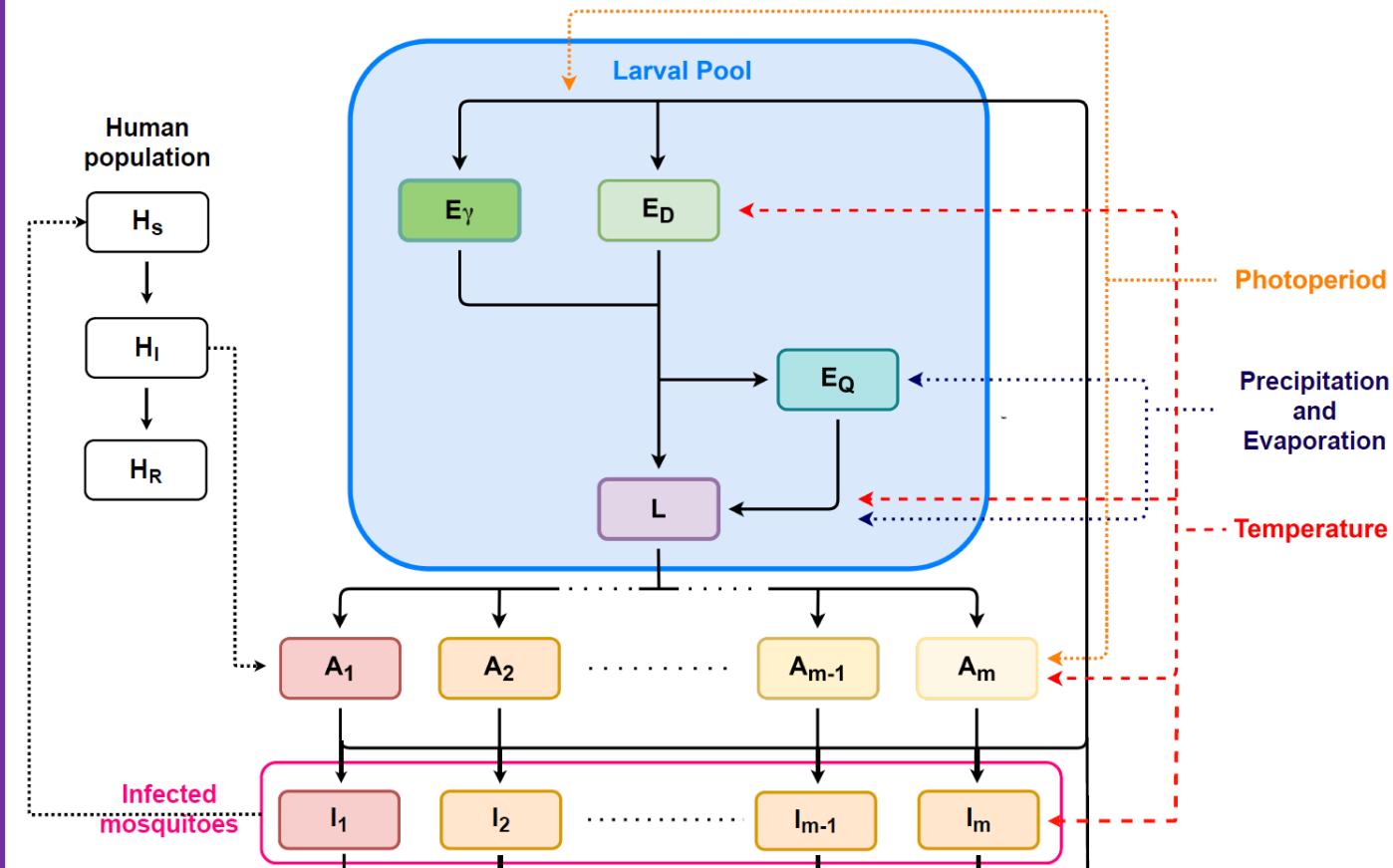
**Phenotypic plasticity as a cause and consequence of population dynamics**

Dominic P. Brass<sup>1,2</sup>  | Christina A. Cobbold<sup>3</sup>  | David A. Ewing<sup>4</sup>  |  
Bethan V. Purse<sup>1</sup>  | Amanda Callaghan<sup>2</sup>  | Steven M. White<sup>1</sup> 

# MODEL FOR AEDES ALBOPICTUS

Developed a stage-phenotypically structured system of delay-differential equations

Adult population structured by infection status and wing-length

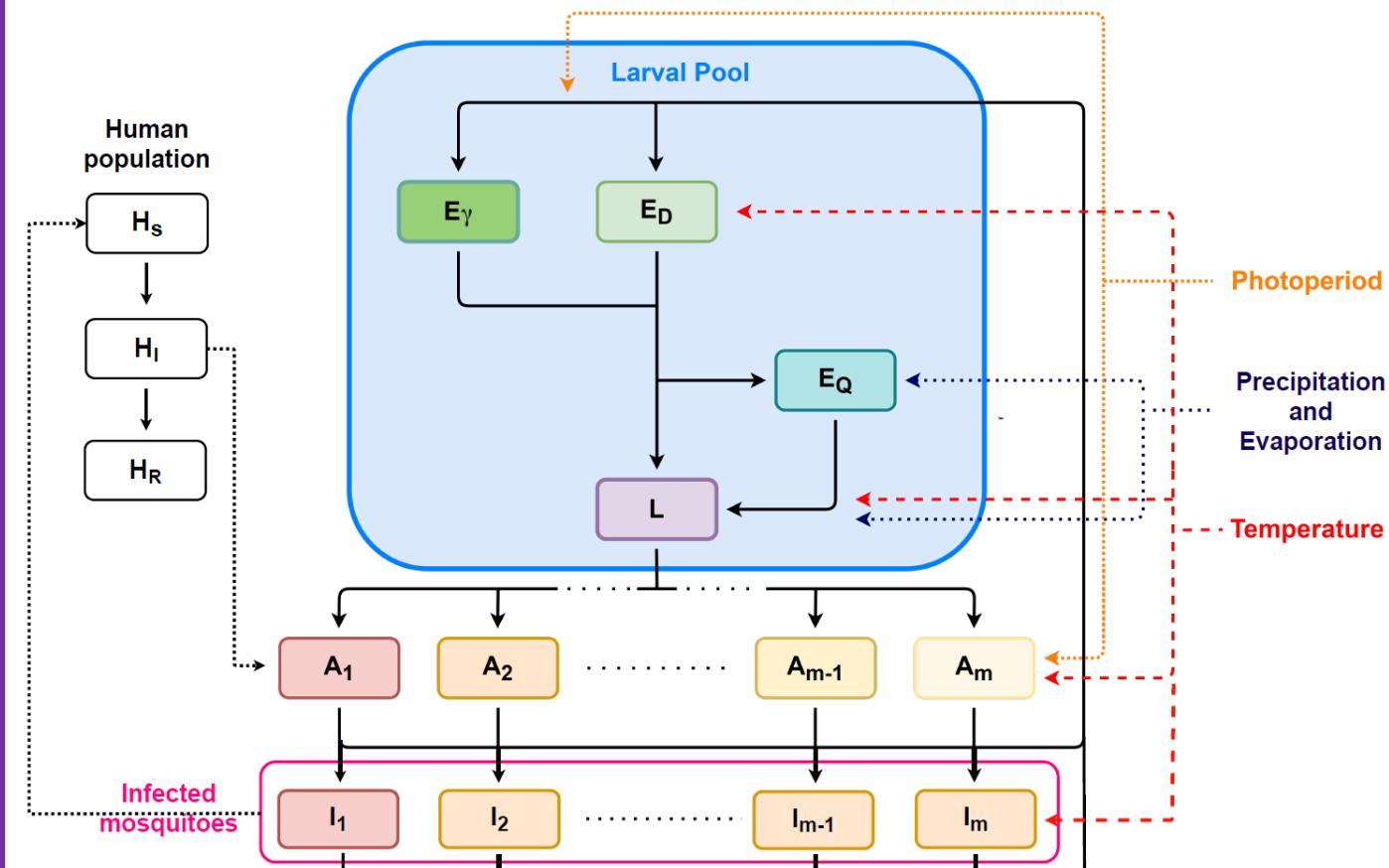


# MODEL FOR AEDES ALBOPICTUS

Developed a stage-phenotypically structured system of delay-differential equations

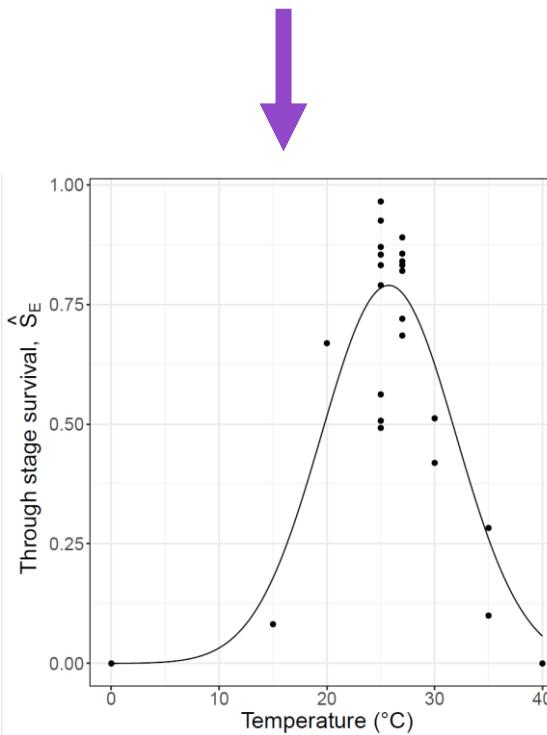
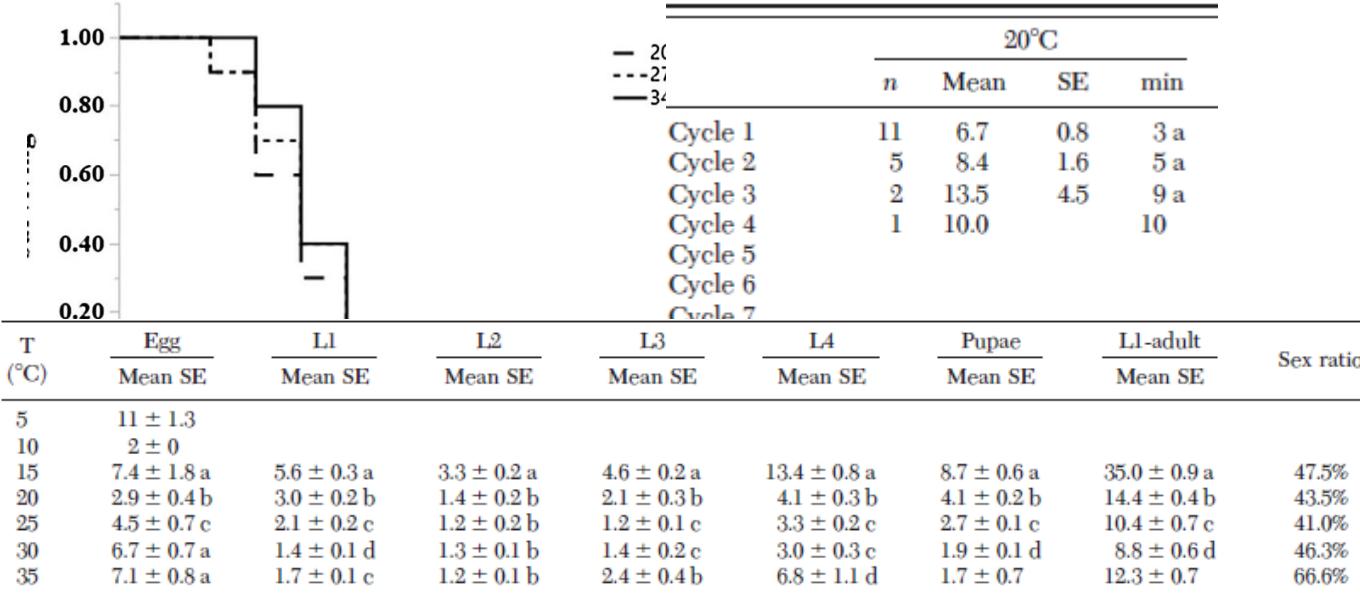
Adult population structured by infection status and wing-length

Use historic experience of larval competition to determine the wing-length of emerging adults



# REACTION NORMS

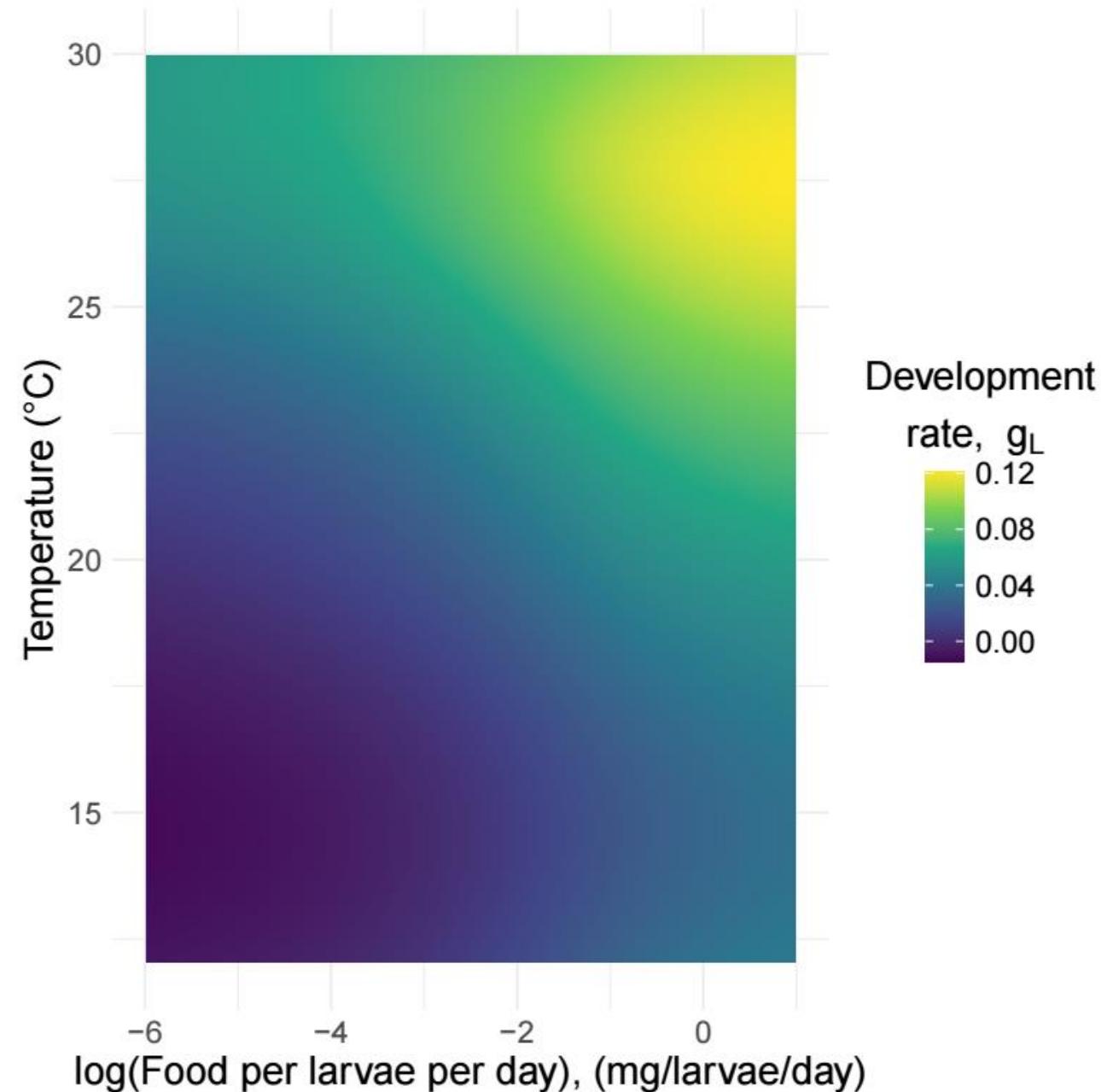
Parametrise reaction norms  
linking environmental drivers  
to trait value using laboratory  
data



# REACTION NORMS

Parametrise reaction norms  
linking environmental drivers  
to trait value using laboratory  
data

Density and temperature  
dependent variable time  
delays

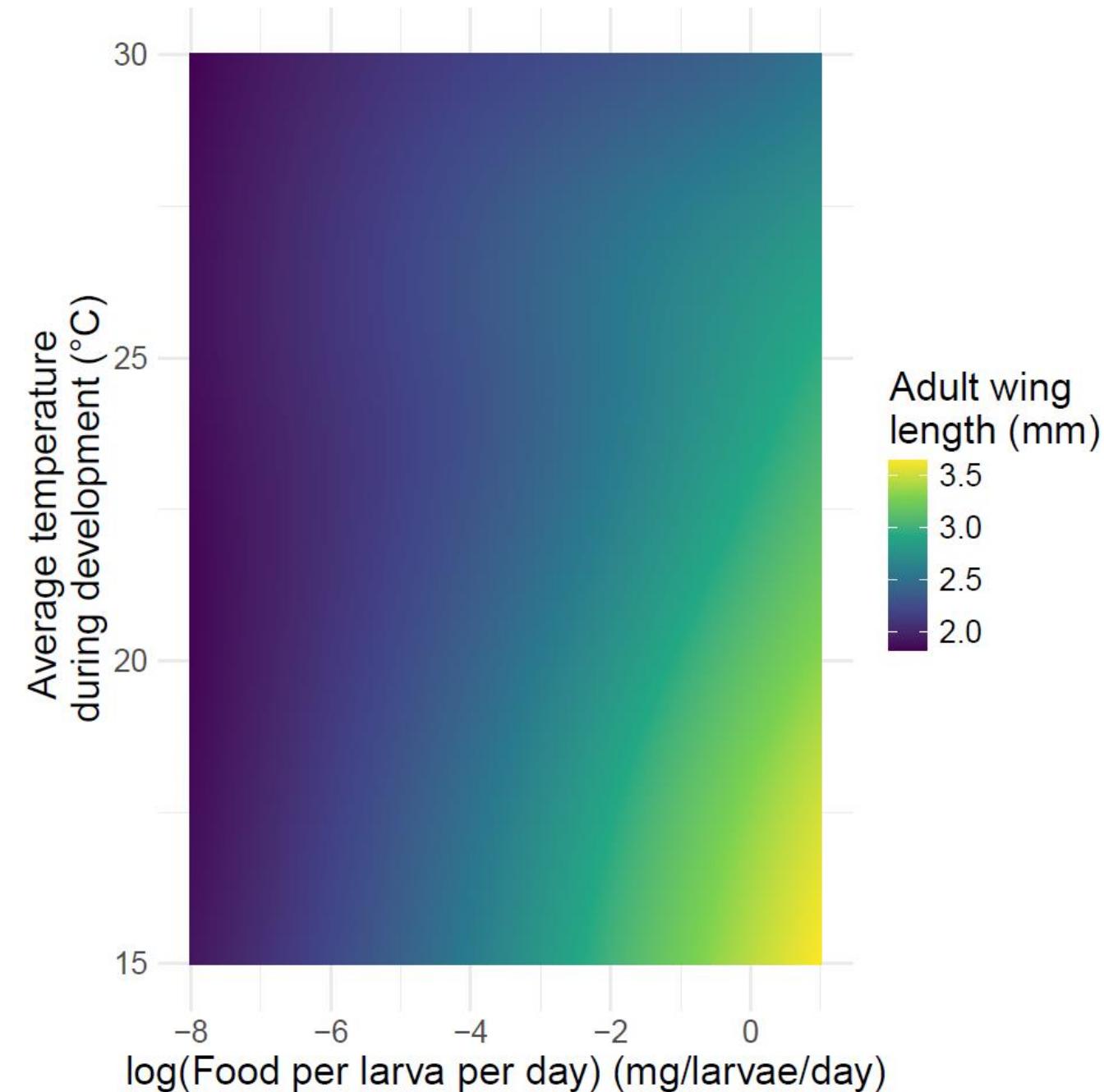


# REACTION NORMS

Parametrise reaction norms  
linking environmental drivers  
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Density and temperature  
dependent variable time  
delays

Relationship between average  
larval temperature and  
average food per larvae per  
day and adult wing length

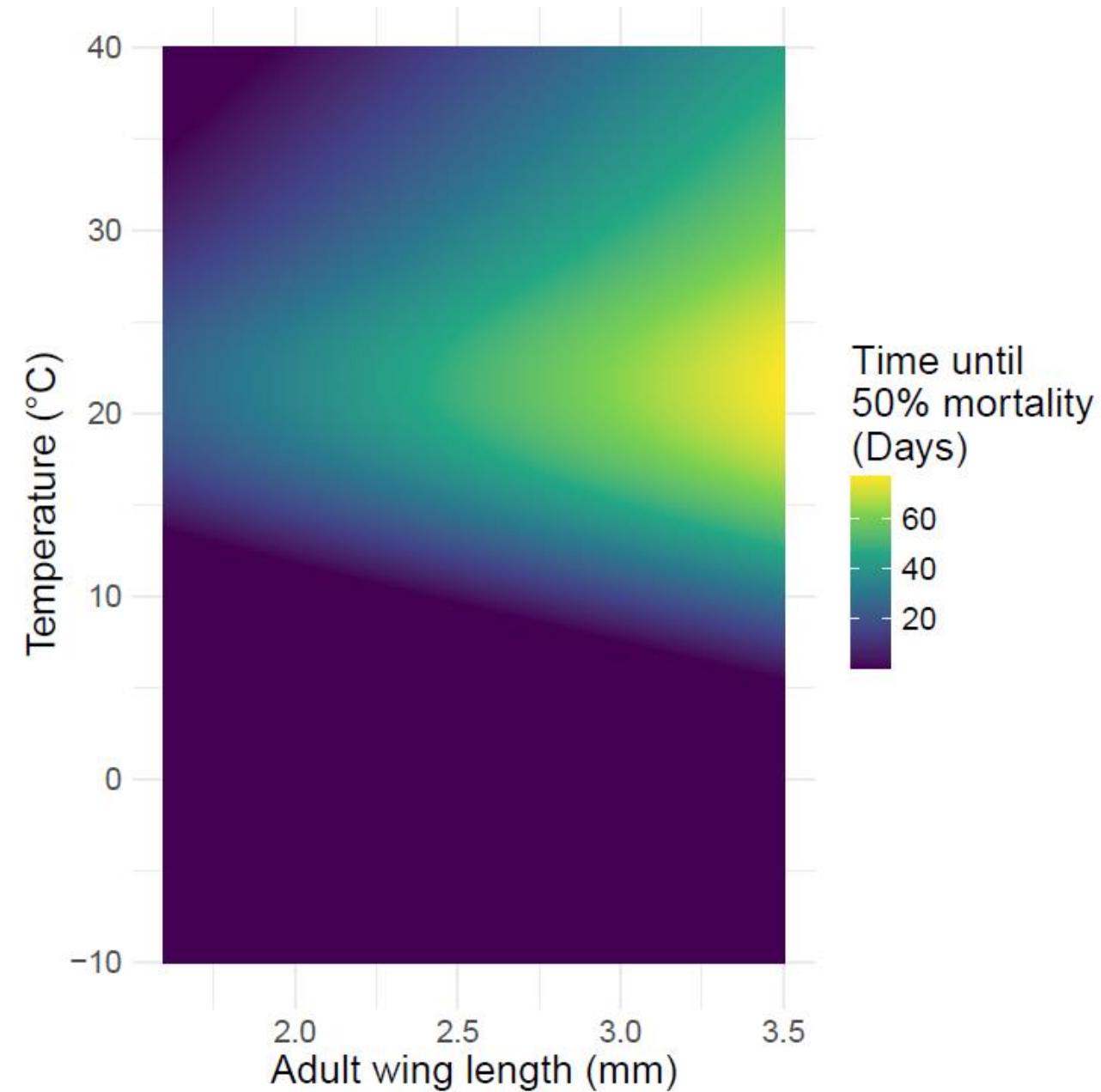


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Parametrise reaction norms  
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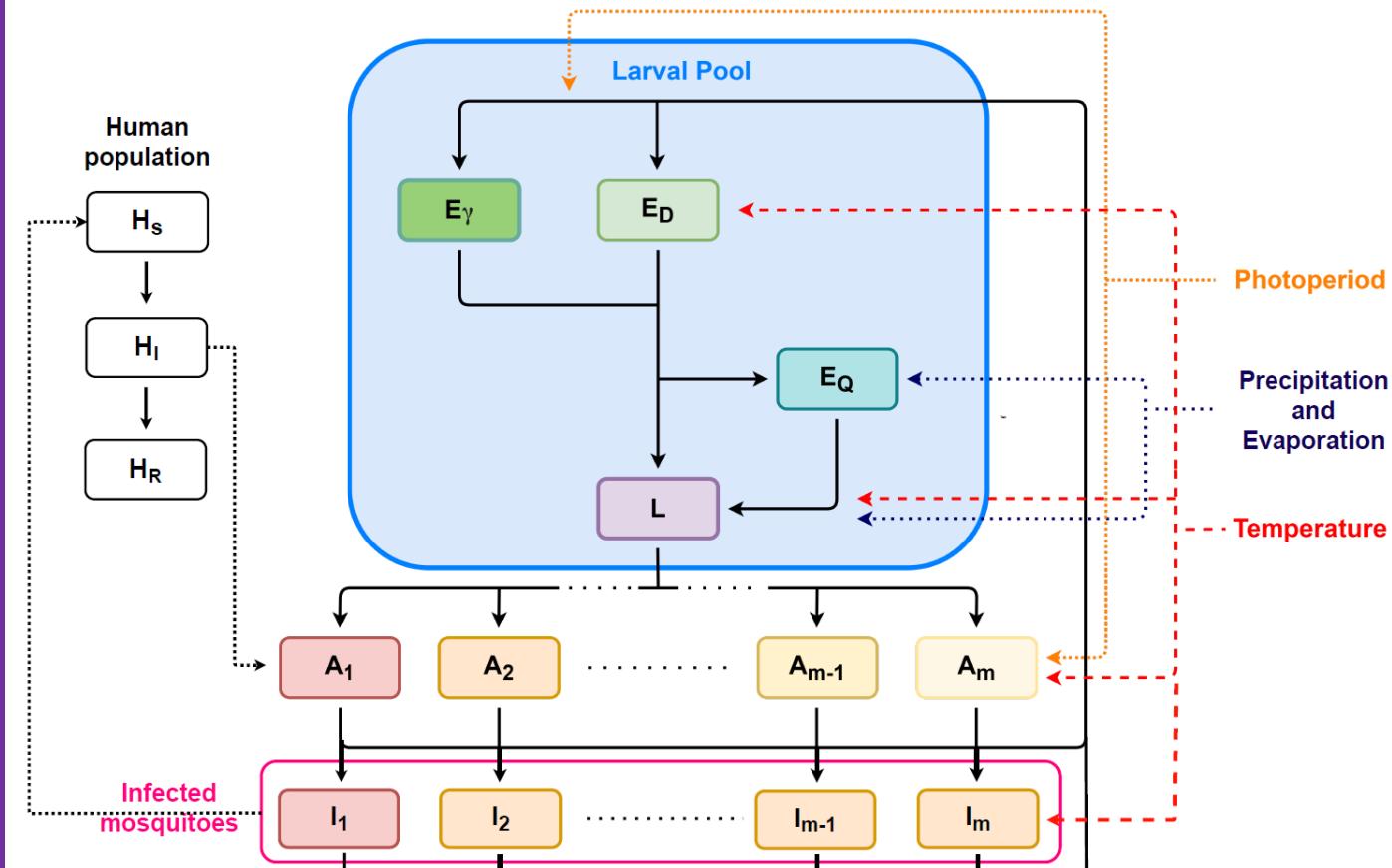
# MODEL FOR AEDES ALBOPICTUS

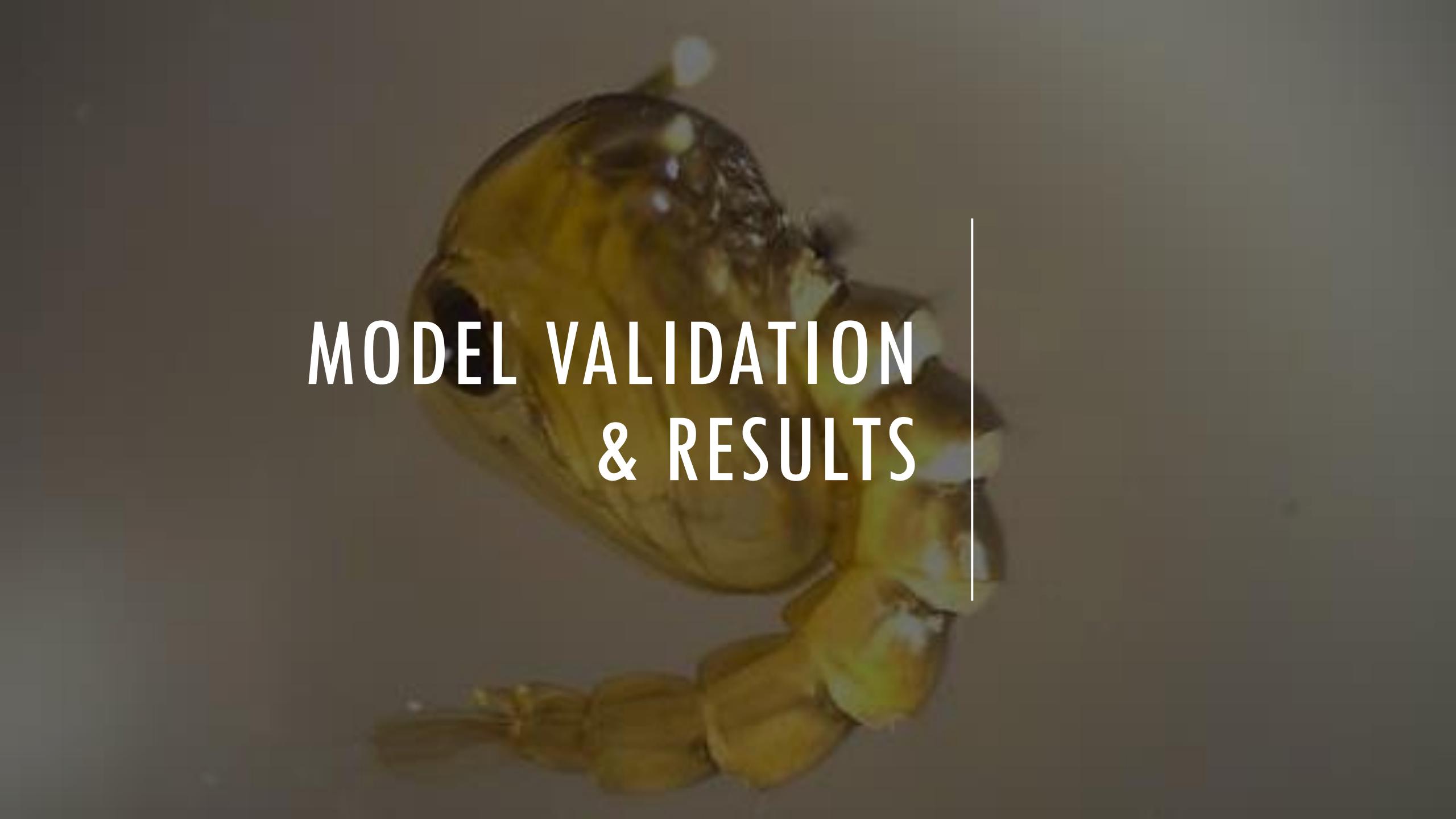
Stage-phenotypically structured delay-differential equations

Input environmental variables

Output population & disease dynamics

No backfitting





# MODEL VALIDATION & RESULTS

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# CARRIERI ET AL. (2011)

Rimini, Italy



# CARRIERI ET AL. (2011)

Rimini, Italy

Temperate climate



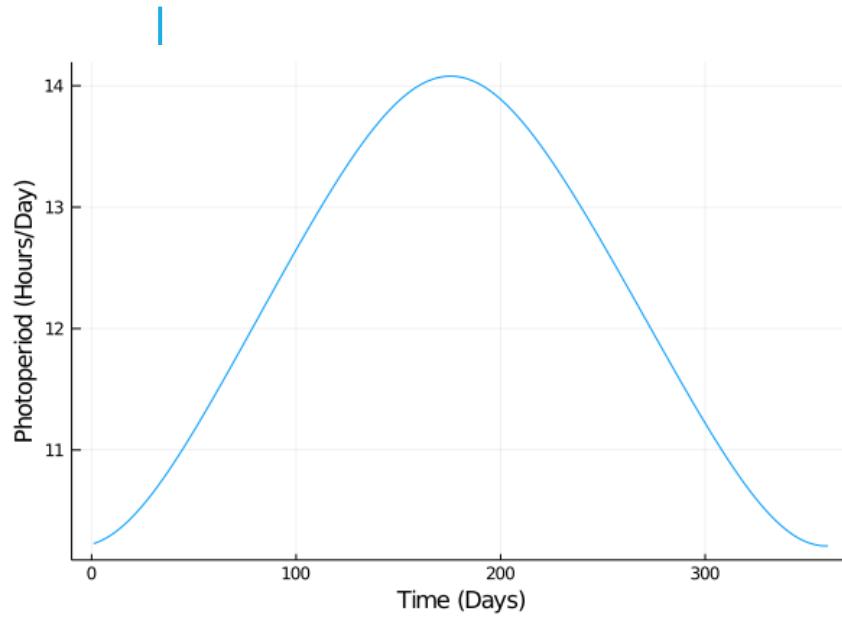
# CARRIERI ET AL. (2011)

Rimini, Italy

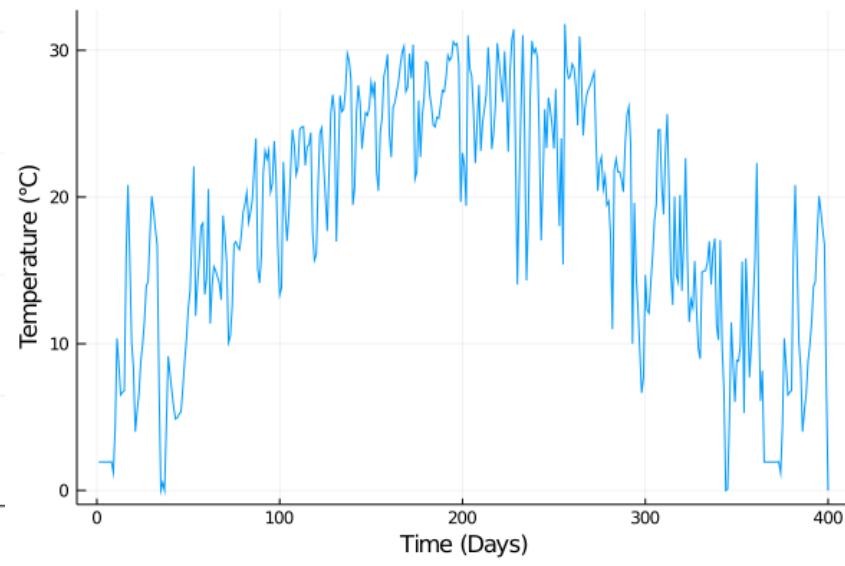
Temperate climate

Oviposition activity monitored  
in 2008

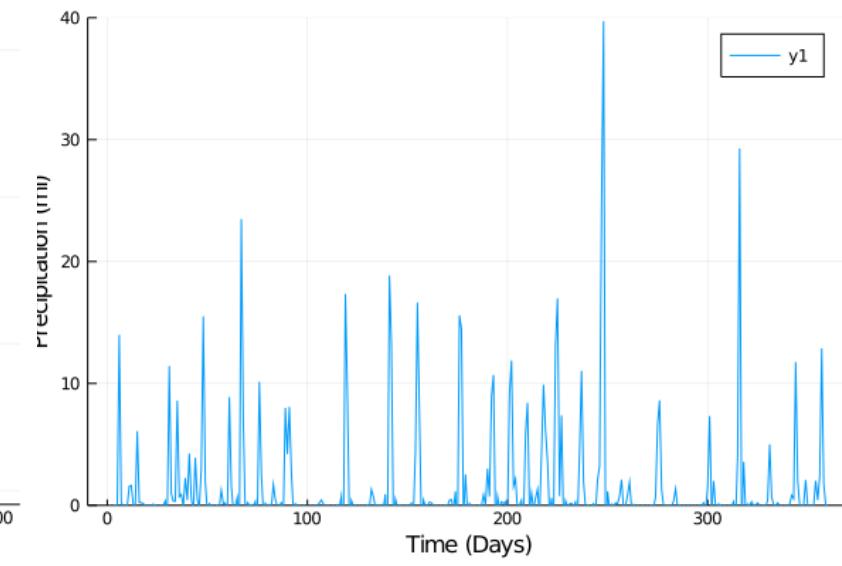




Photoperiod



Temperature



Precipitation

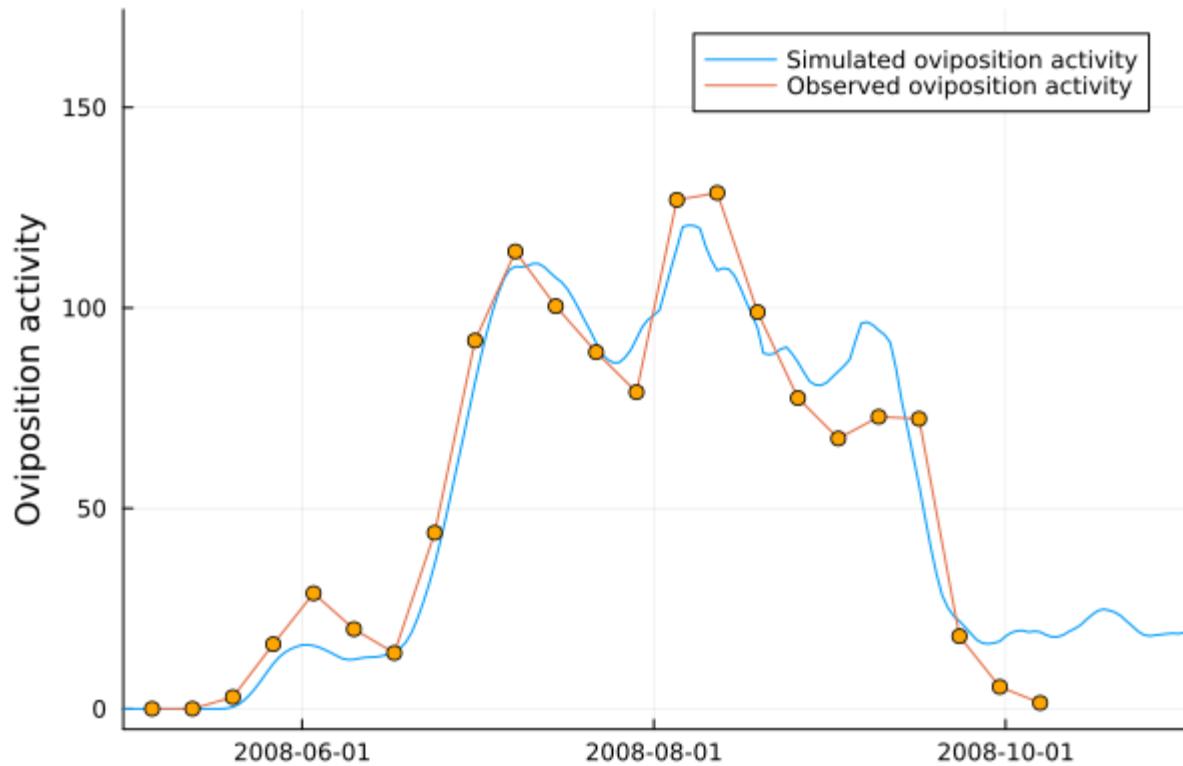
ENVIRONMENTAL CUES

# CARRIERI ET AL. (2011)

Rimini, Italy

Temperate climate

Oviposition activity monitored  
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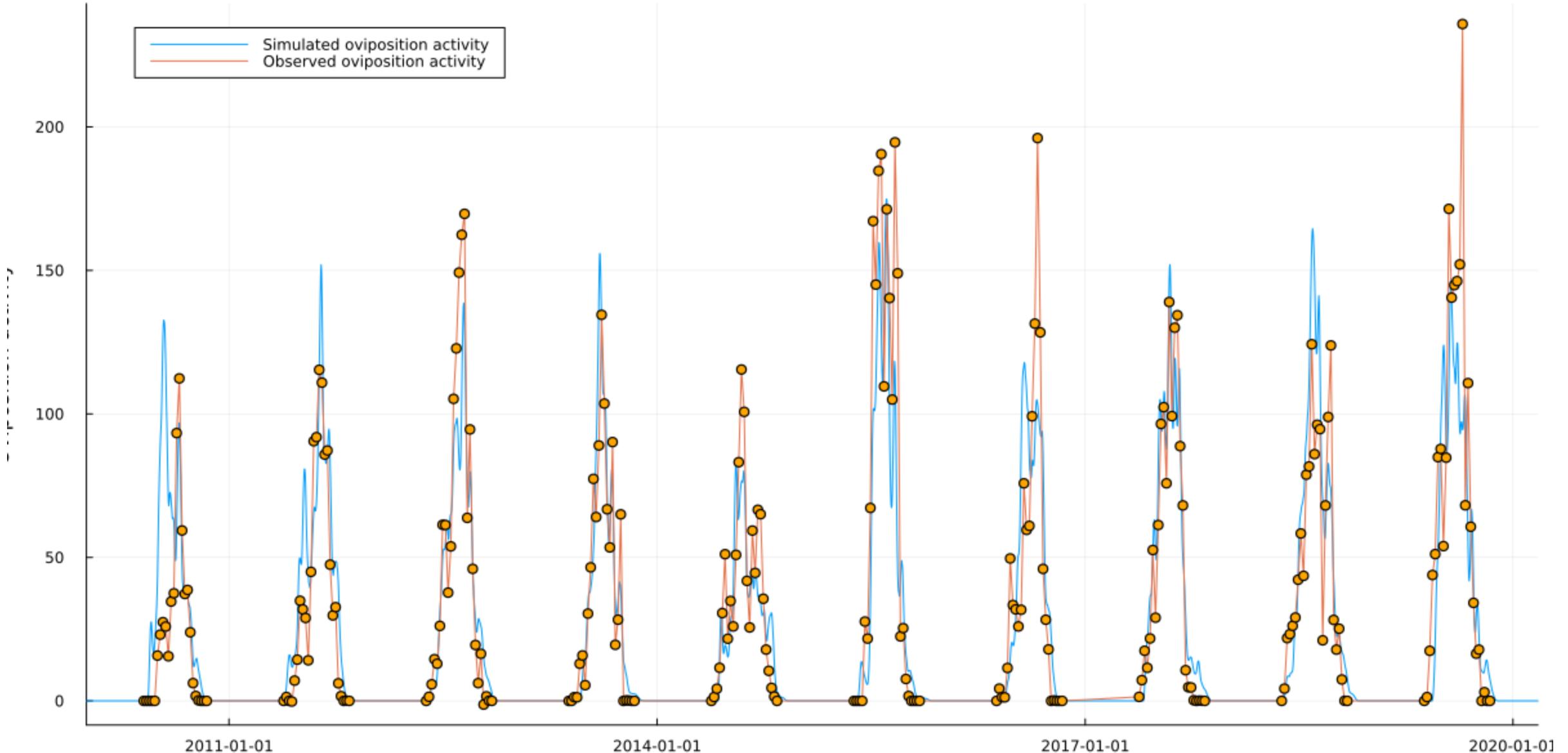


Carrieri, M., Angelini, P., Venturelli, C., Maccagnani, B. & Bellini, R. *Aedes albopictus* (Diptera: Culicidae) Population size survey in the 2007 Chikungunya outbreak area in Italy. II: Estimating epidemic thresholds. *Journal of Medical Entomology* (2012).

# TRENTO, ITALY

Oviposition activity monitored  
over 10 years



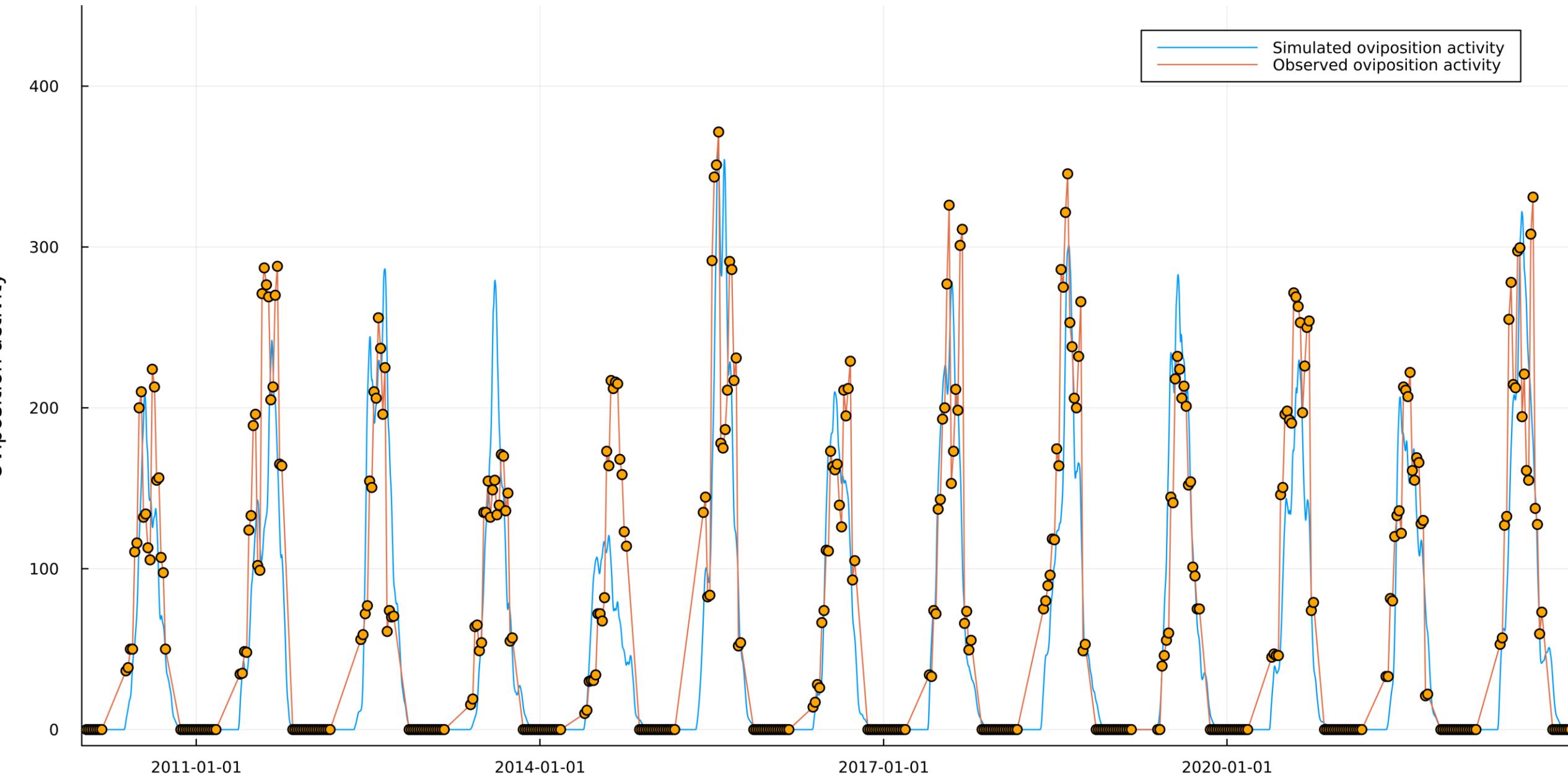


Lencioni, V. et al. Multi-year dynamics of the *Aedes albopictus* occurrence in two neighbouring cities in the alps. *The European Zoological Journal* **90**, 101–112 (2023).

# BOLOGNA, ITALY

Oviposition activity monitored  
over 10 years (taken from  
VectAbundance)





# WILLIS AND NASCI (1994)

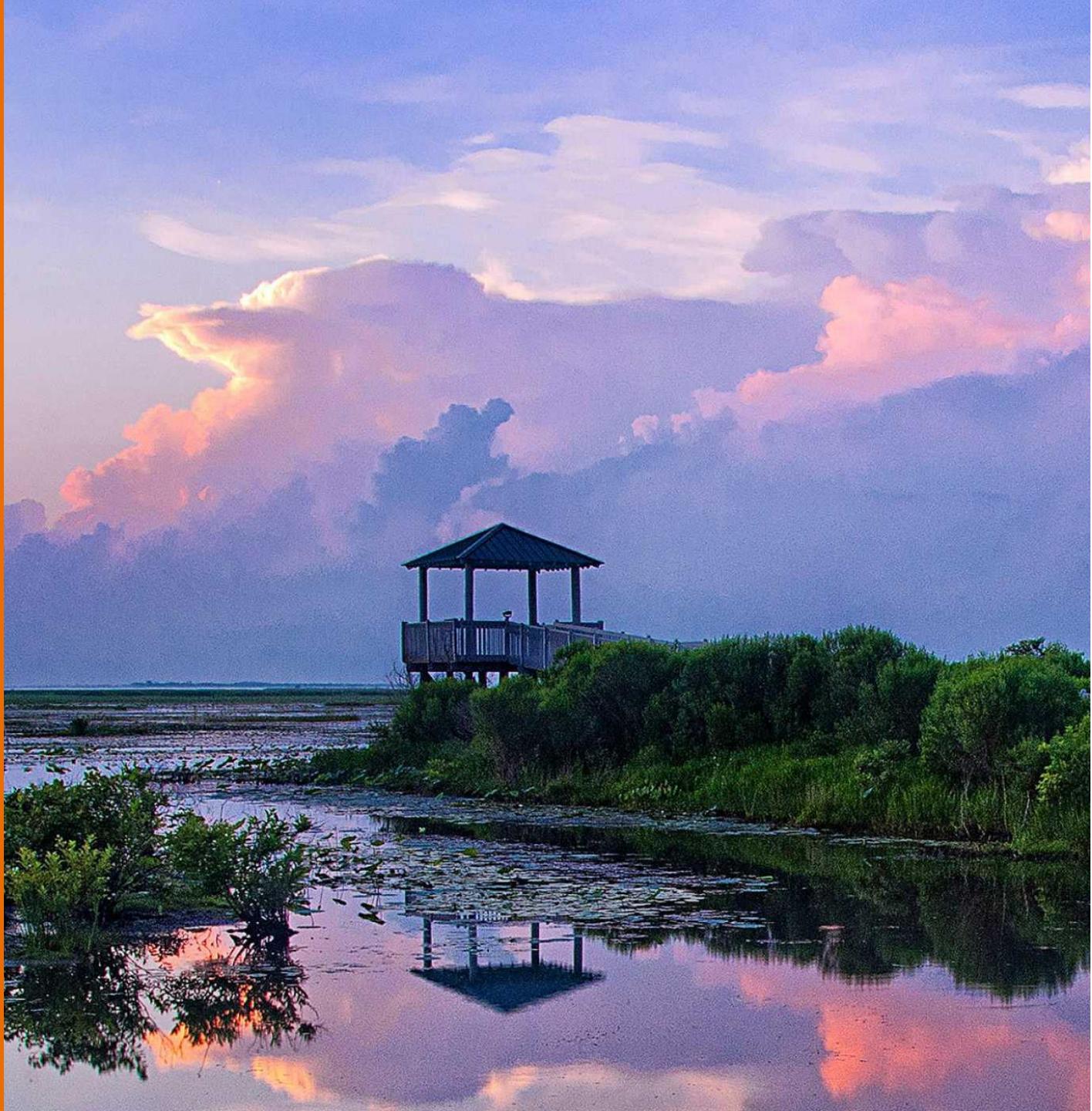
Lake Charles, Louisiana



# WILLIS AND NASCI (1994)

Lake Charles, Louisiana

Subtropical climate

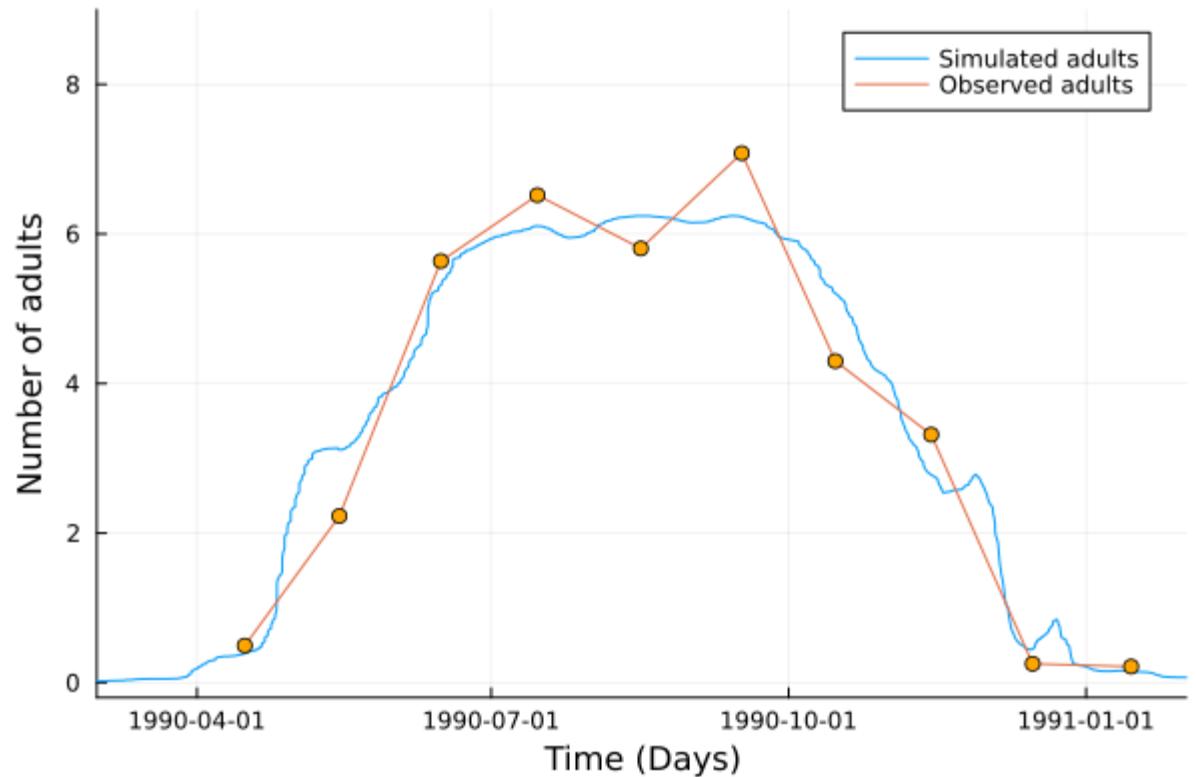


# WILLIS AND NASCI (1994)

Lake Charles, Louisiana

Subtropical climate

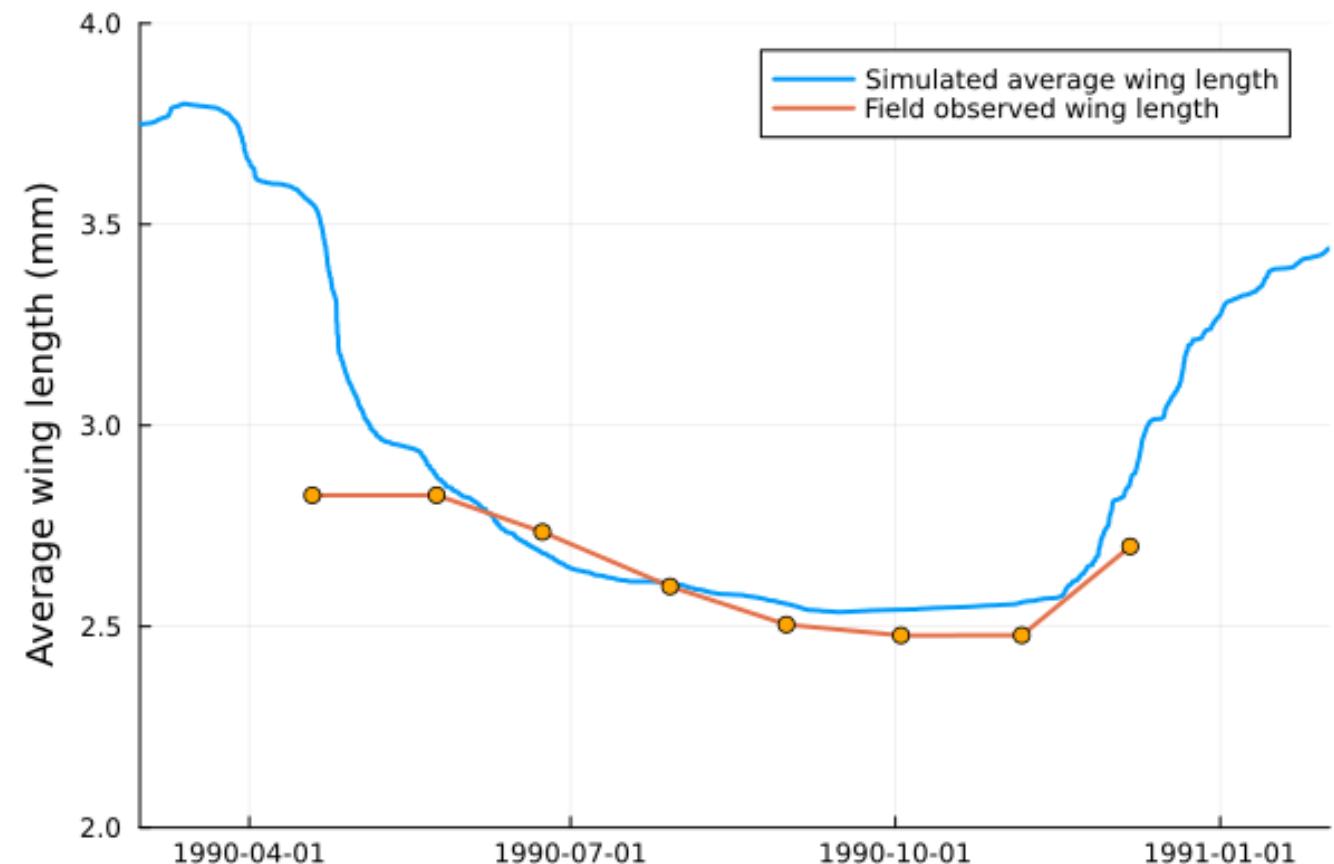
Adults trapped



Willis, F. S. & Nasci, R. S. *Aedes albopictus* (Diptera: Culicidae) population density and structure in southwest Louisiana. *Journal of Medical Entomology* **31**, 594–599 (1994).

# WILLIS AND NASCI (1994)

Lake Charles, Louisiana  
Subtropical climate  
Adults trapped  
Average wing-length of  
adults measured



Willis, F. S. & Nasci, R. S. *Aedes albopictus* (Diptera: Culicidae) population density and structure in southwest Louisiana. *Journal of Medical Entomology* **31**, 594–599 (1994).

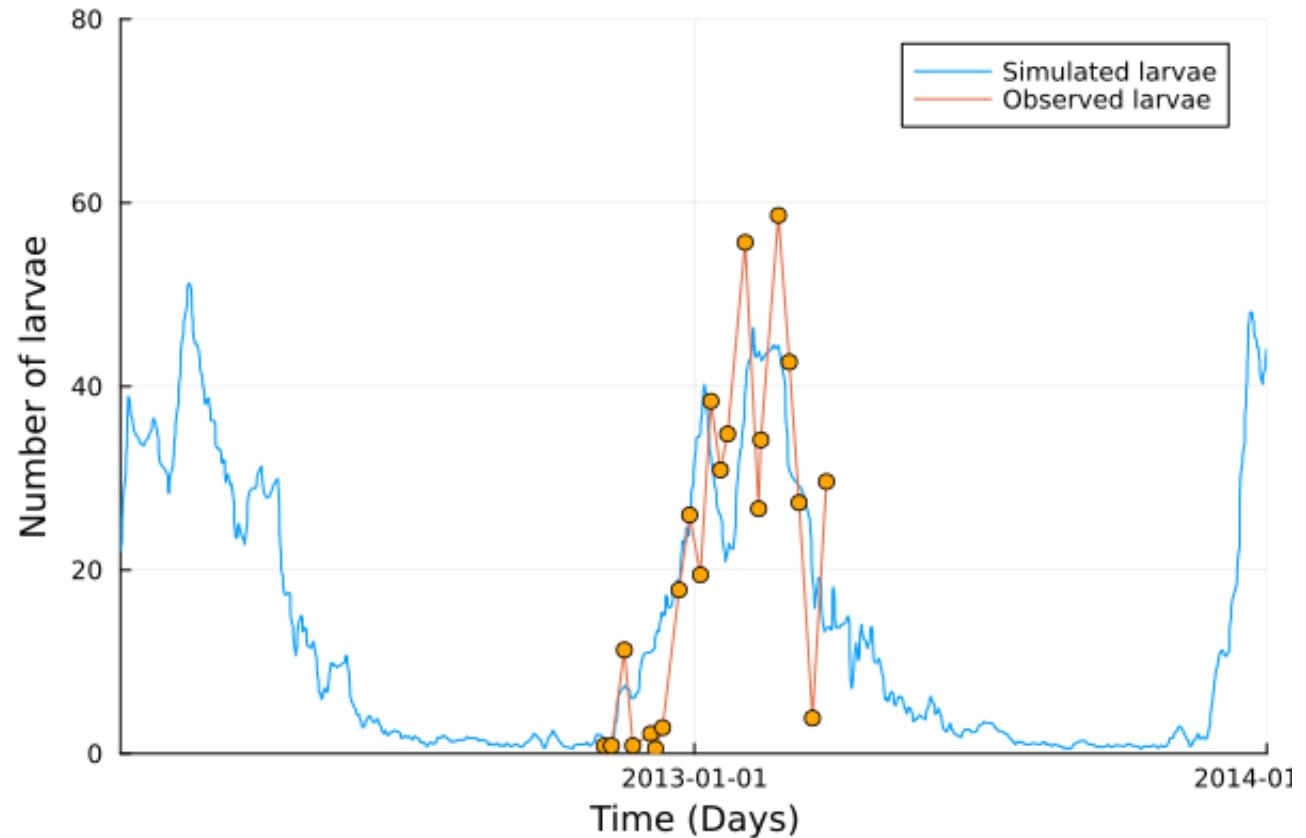
# GOUGNA ET AL. (2020)

Saint Paul, Reunion  
Tropical climate  
Larvae sampled

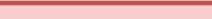


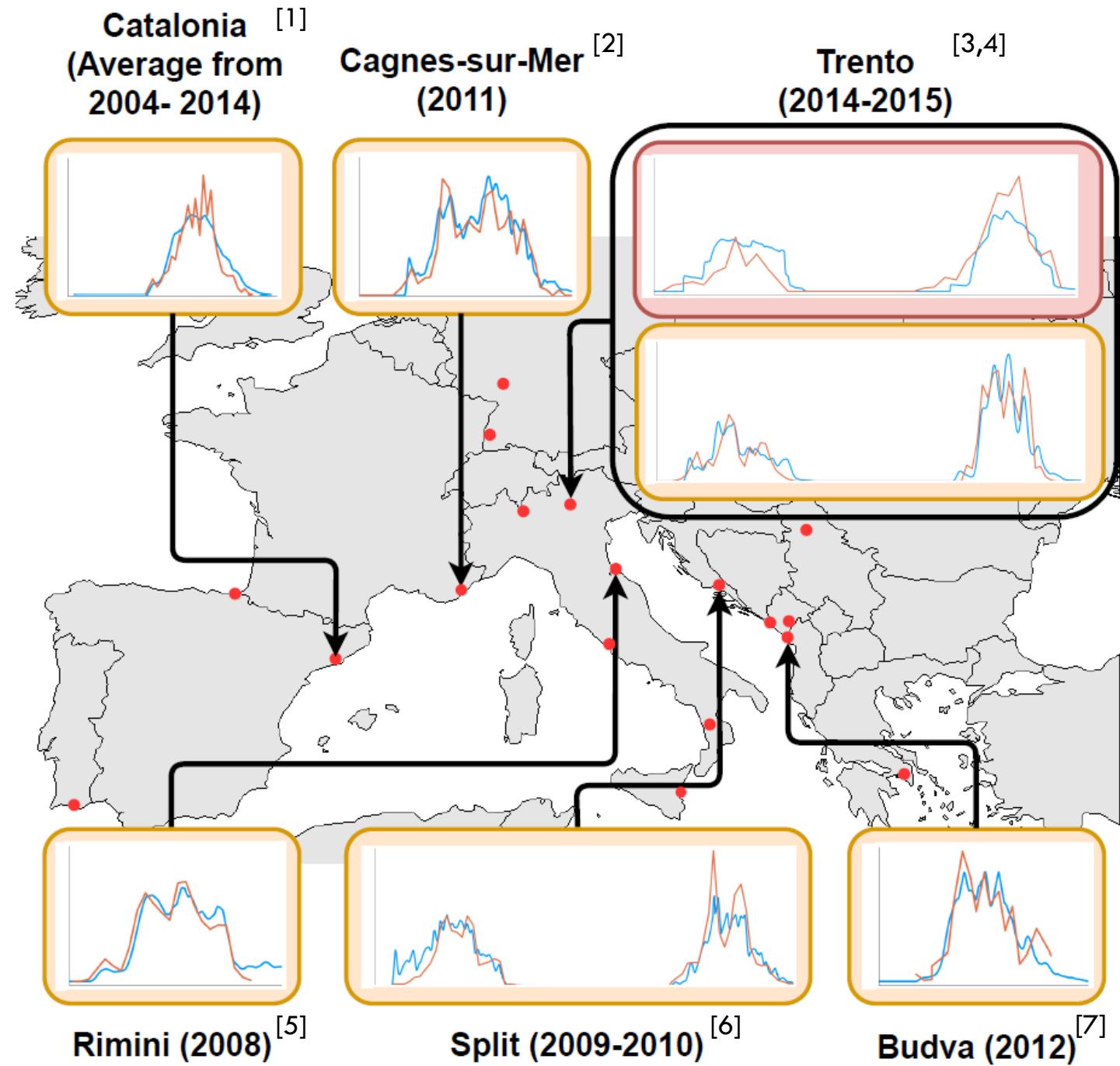
# GOUUGNA ET AL. (2020)

Saint Paul, Reunion  
Tropical climate  
Larvae sampled



Gouagna, L. C. et al. Strategic approach, advances, and challenges in the development and application of the SIT for area-wide control of *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes in Reunion island. *Insects* **11**, 1–24 (2020).

-  Model prediction
-  Field observation
-  Oviposition activity
-  Number of larvae
-  Number of adults
-  Average wing length
-  Location of field data



- [1] Collantes, F. *et al.* Review of ten-years presence of *Aedes albopictus* in Spain 2004-2014: known distribution and public health concerns. *Parasites and Vectors* **8** (2015).
- [2] Lacour, G., Chanaud, L., L'Ambert, G. & Hance, T. Seasonal synchronization of diapause phases in *Aedes albopictus* (Diptera: Culicidae). *PLoS ONE* **10**, 1-16 (2015).
- [3] Lencioni, V. *et al.* Multi-year dynamics of the *Aedes albopictus* occurrence in two neighbouring cities in the alps. *The European Zoological Journal* **90**, 101-112 (2023).
- [4] Marini, G. *et al.* The effect of interspecific competition on the temporal dynamics of *Aedes albopictus* and *Culex pipiens*. *Parasites and Vectors* (2017).
- [5] Carrieri, M., Angelini, P., Venturelli, C., Maccagnani, B. & Bellini, R. *Aedes albopictus* (Diptera: Culicidae) Population size survey in the 2007 Chikungunya outbreak area in Italy. II: Estimating epidemic thresholds. *Journal of Medical Entomology* (2012).
- [6] Žitko, T. & Merdić, E. Seasonal and spatial oviposition activity of *Aedes albopictus* (Diptera: Culicidae) in Adriatic Croatia. *Journal of Medical Entomology* **51**, 760-768 (2014).
- [7] Pajovic, I., Petrić, D., Bellini, R., Dragićević, S. & Pajović, L. *Stegomyia albopicta* skuse, 1894 (Diptera: Culicidae) on Luštica peninsula 2011-2012 (Montenegro). *Archives of Biological Sciences* **65**, 829-838 (2013).

**Model prediction**

**Field observation**

**Oviposition activity**

**Number of larvae**

**Number of adults**

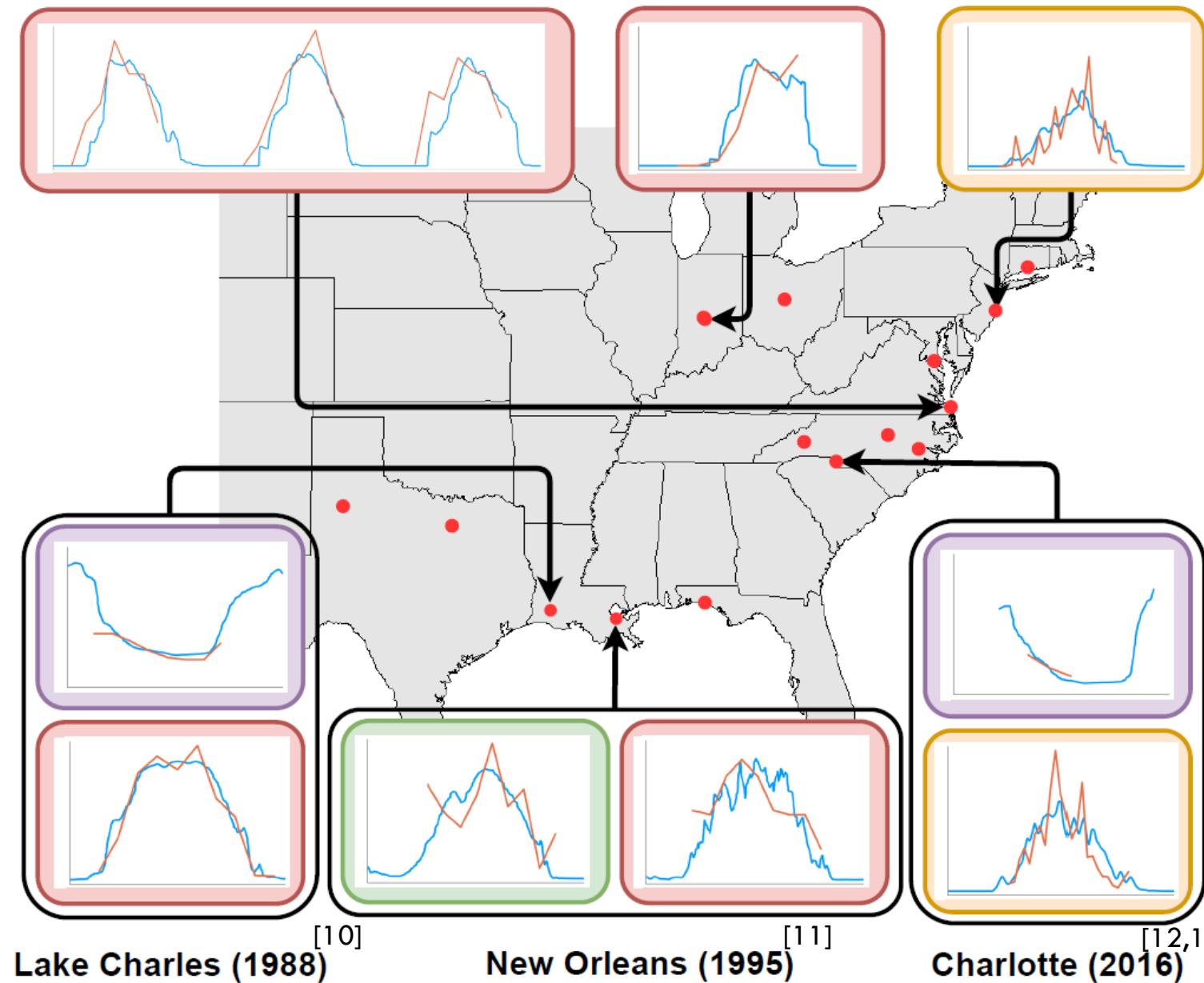
**Average wing length**

**Location of field data**

- [8] Álvarez Jarreta, J. *et al.* Veupathdb: the eukaryotic pathogen, vector and host bioinformatics resource center in 2023. *Nucleic Acids Research* **52** (2023).
- [9] Fonseca, D. M. *et al.* Area-wide management of *Aedes albopictus*. Part 2: Gauging the efficacy of traditional integrated pest control measures against urban container mosquitoes. *Pest Management Science* **69**, 1351–1361 (2013).
- [10] Willis, F. S. & Nasci, R. S. *Aedes albopictus* (Diptera: Culicidae) population density and structure in southwest Louisiana. *Journal of Medical Entomology* **31**, 594–599 (1994).
- [11] Comiskey, N. M., Lowrie, R. C. & Wesson, D. M. Role of habitat components on the dynamics of *Aedes albopictus* (Diptera: Culicidae) from New Orleans. *Journal of Medical Entomology* **36**, 313–320 (1999).
- [12] Reed, E. M. X. *et al.* A statewide survey of container *Aedes* mosquitoes (Diptera: Culicidae) in North Carolina, 2016: A multiagency surveillance response to Zika using ovitraps. *Journal of Medical Entomology* **56**, 483–490 (2019).
- [13] Mundis, S. J. *et al.* Examining wing length–abundance relationships and pyrethroid resistance mutations among *Aedes albopictus* in a rapidly growing urban area with implications for mosquito surveillance and control. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* **18** (2021).

**Suffolk (2015-2017)** [8]

**Indianapolis (2019)** [8] **Monmouth (2009)** [9]



## Model prediction

## Field observation

## Oviposition activity

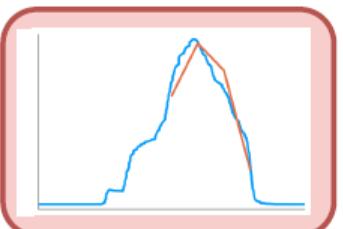
## Number of larvae

## Number of adults

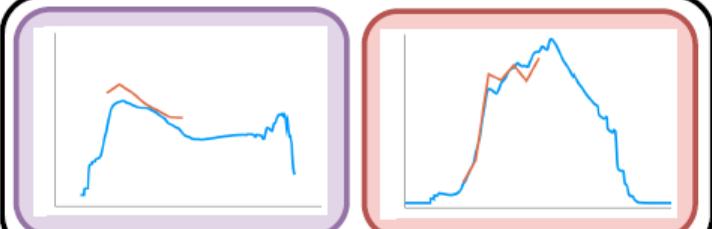
## Average wing length

## Location of field data

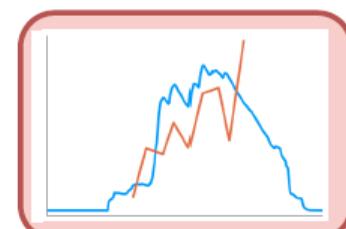
[14] Suwon (2016)



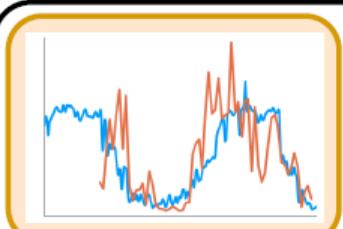
[15] Nagasaki (1990)



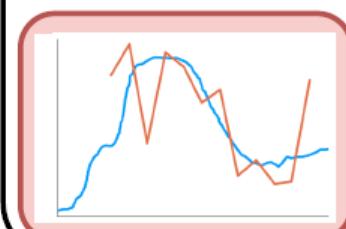
[16] Tokyo (2018)



[17,18] Guangzhou (2017 & 2010-2012)



[19] Naha (1988)



[14] Hwang, M. J. et al. Temporal trend of *Aedes albopictus* in local urban parks of the Republic of Korea. *Journal of Medical Entomology* **57**, 1082–1089 (2020).

[15] Suzuki, A., Tsuda, Y., Takagi, M. & Wada, Y. Seasonal observation on some population attributes of *Aedes albopictus* females in Nagasaki, Japan, with emphasis on the relation between the body size and the survival. *Tropical Medicine* **35**, 91–99 (1993).

[16] Kori, M. et al. The 2014 autochthonous dengue fever outbreak in Tokyo: A case series study and assessment of the causes and preventive measures. *Respiratory Medicine Case Reports* **31**, 101246 (2020).

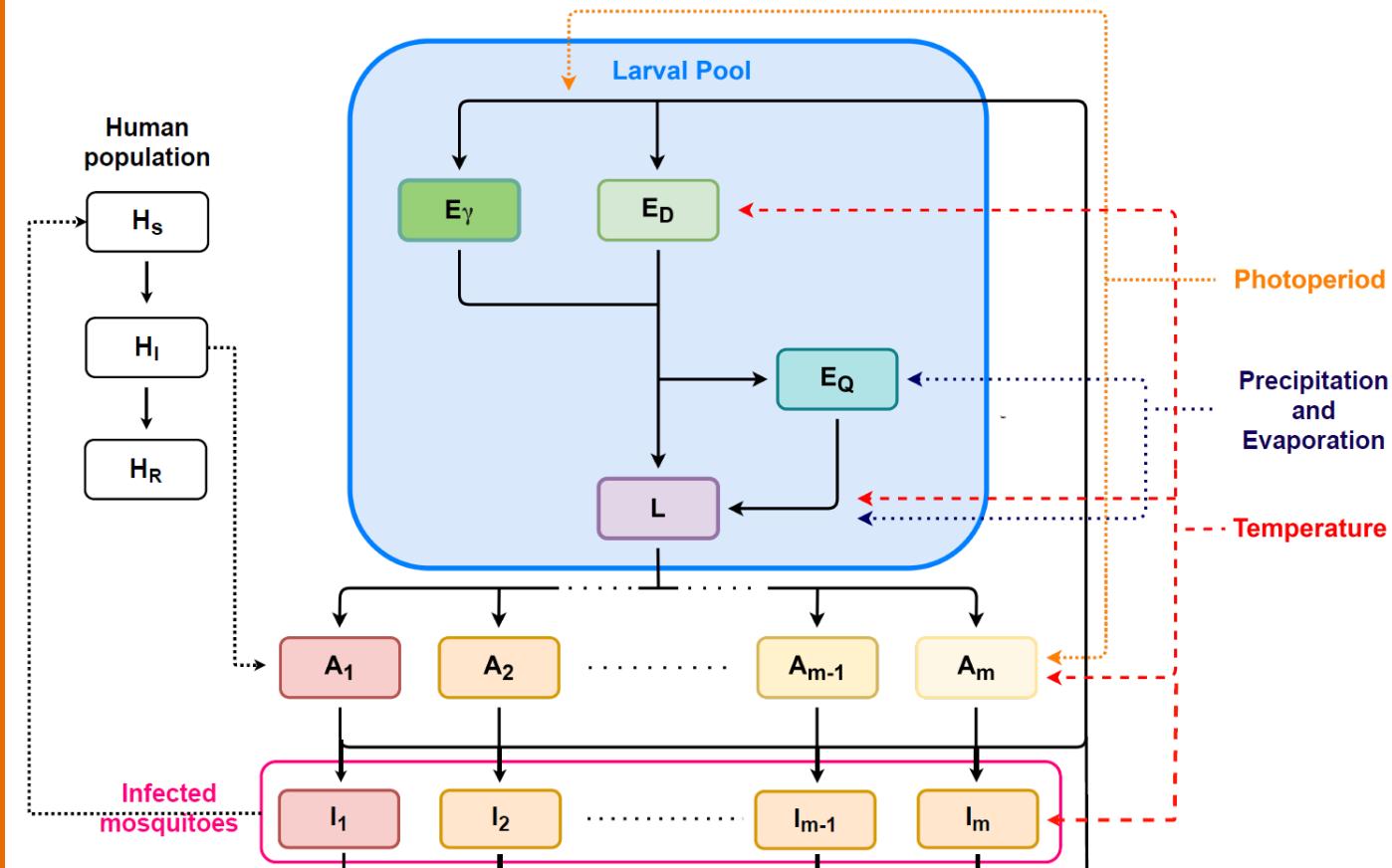
[17] Xia, D. et al. Photoperiodic diapause in a subtropical population of *Aedes albopictus* in Guangzhou, China: Optimized field-laboratory-based study and statistical models for comprehensive characterization. *Infectious Diseases of Poverty* **7**, 1–13 (2018).

[18] Xu, L. et al. Climate variation drives dengue dynamics. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* **114**, 113–118 (2017).

[19] Toma, T., Sakamoto, S. & Miyagi, I. The seasonal appearance of *Aedes albopictus* in Okinawajima, the Ryukyu archipelago, Japan. *Mosquito News* **42**, 179–183 (1982).

# SEIR MODEL

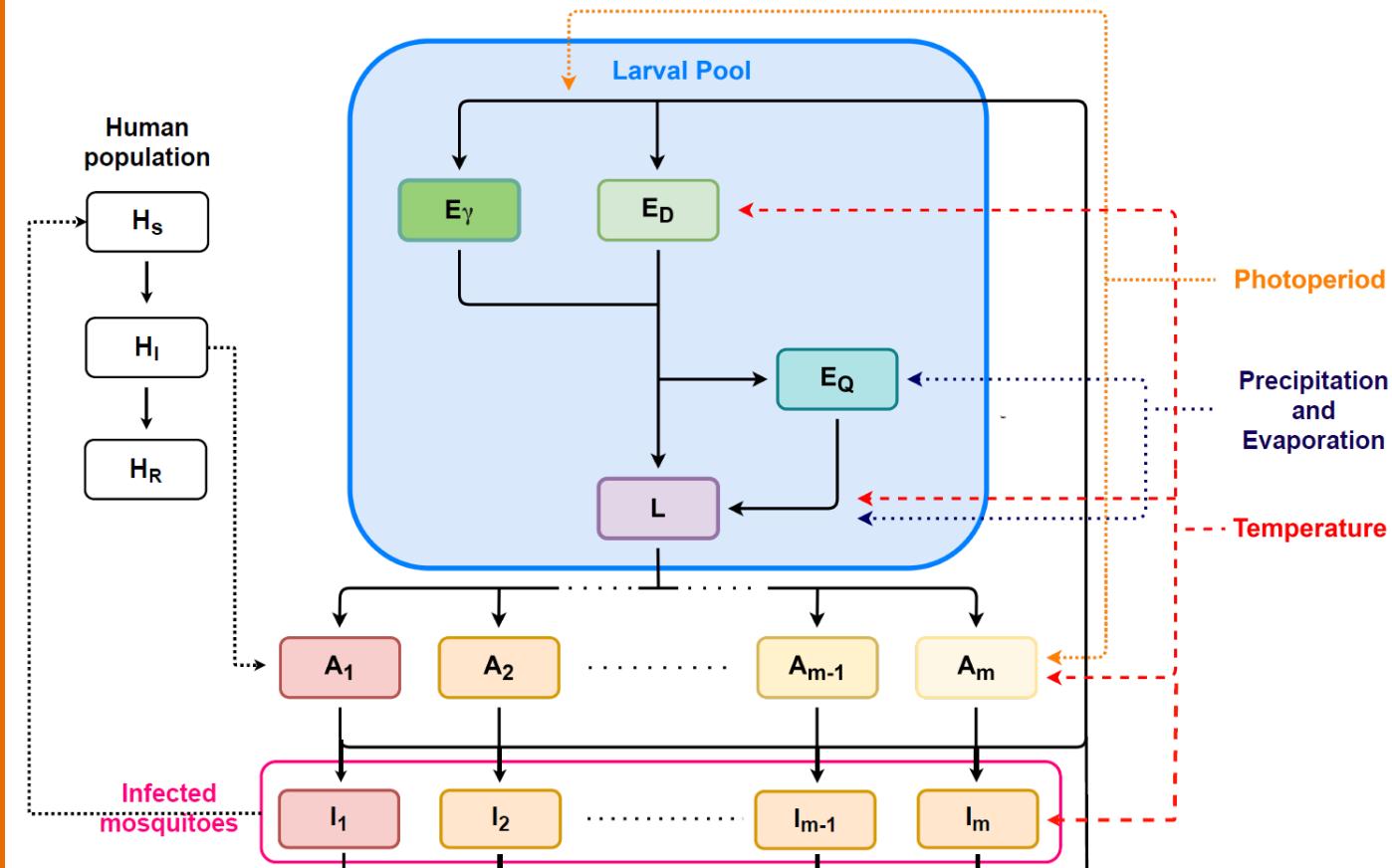
Validate disease dynamics  
by comparing predictions to  
historic dengue outbreaks



# SEIR MODEL

Validate disease dynamics  
by comparing predictions to  
historic dengue outbreaks

We select plausible  
introduction scenarios for  
dengue cases based on case  
reports

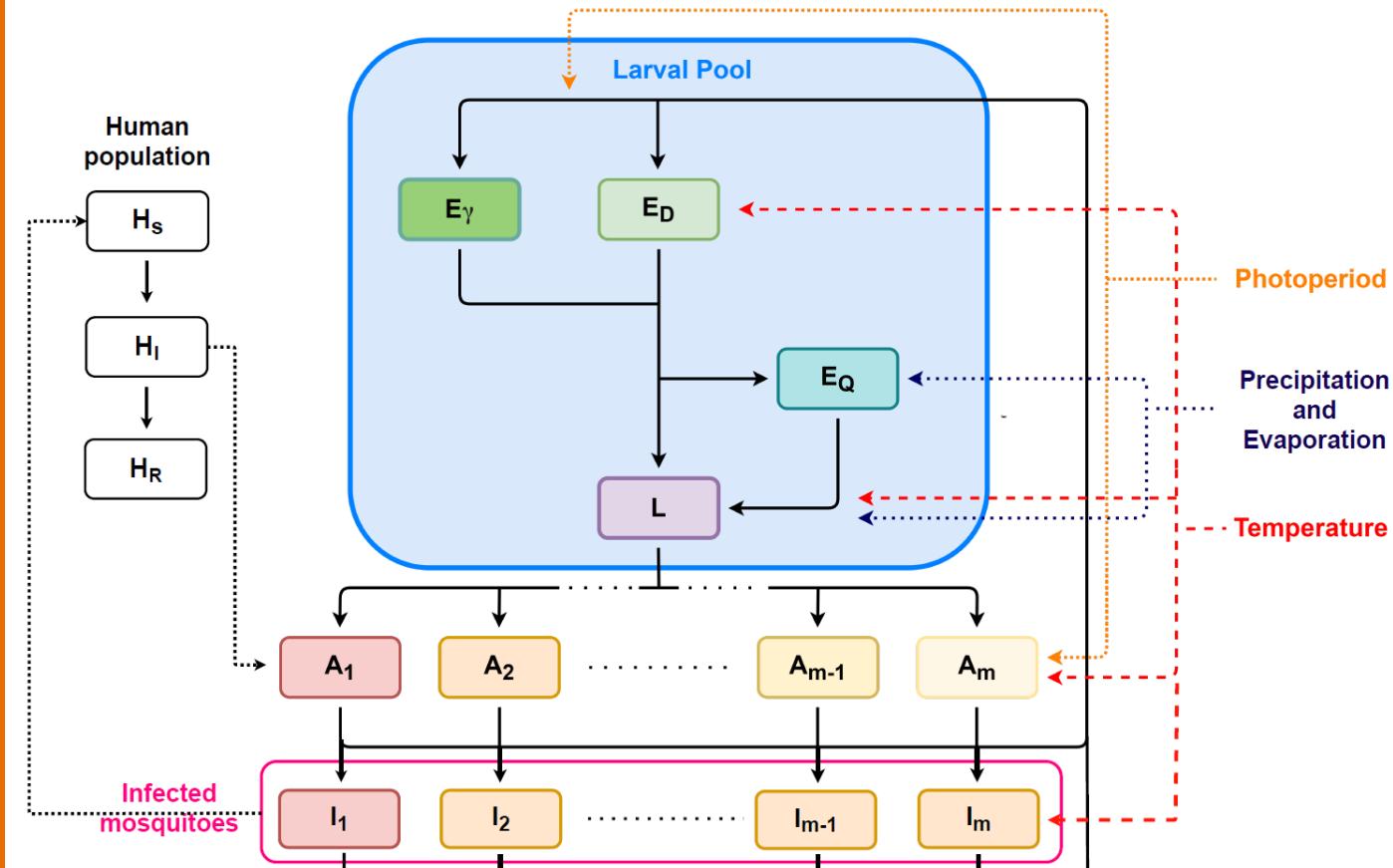


# SEIR MODEL

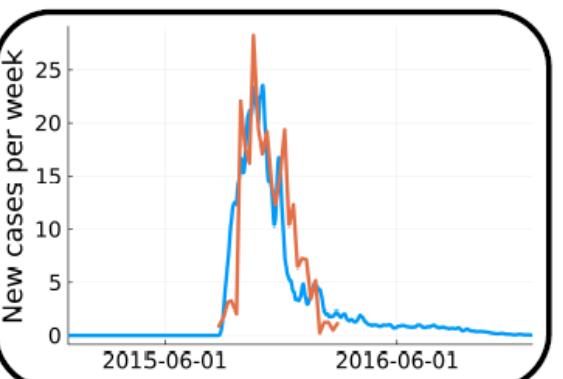
Validate disease dynamics  
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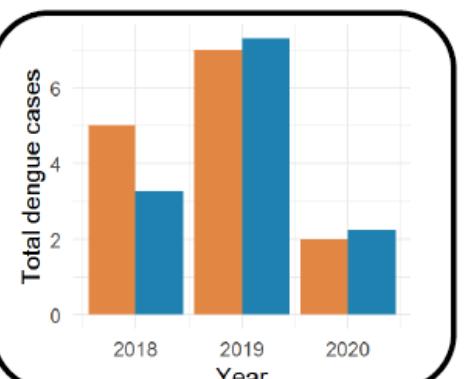
These are often uncertain



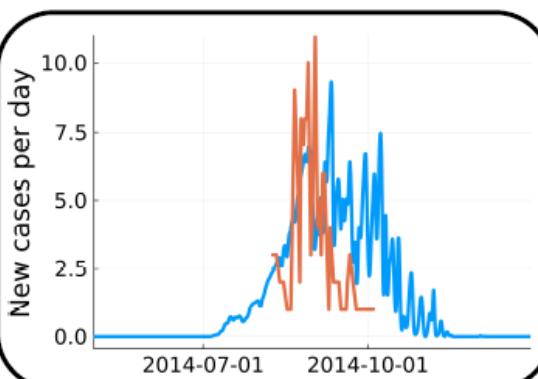
Hawai'i, USA (2015-2016)<sup>[20]</sup>



Alpes Maritimes Department, [21]  
France (2018-2020)



Tokyo, Japan (2014)<sup>[22]</sup>



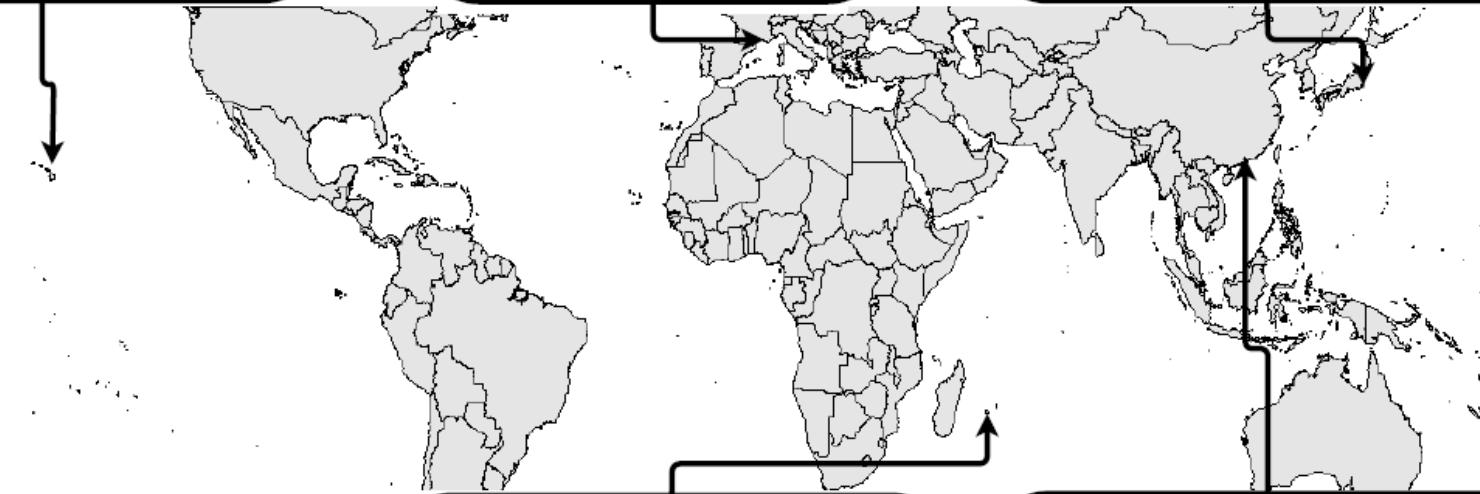
[20] Johnston, D. et al. Investigation and response to an outbreak of dengue: Island of hawaii, 2015-2016. *Public Health Reports* **135**, 003335492090406 (2020).

[21] ECDC. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and European Food Safety Authority. Mosquito maps. (2022). URL <https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/disease-vectors/surveillance-and-disease-data/mosquito-maps>.

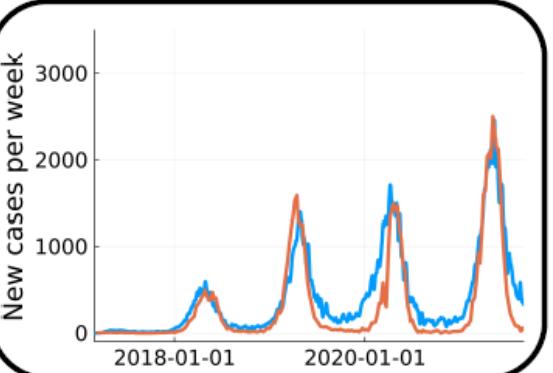
[22] Yuan, B., Lee, H. & Nishiura, H. Assessing dengue control in Tokyo, 2014. *PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases* **13**, 1-17 (2019).

[23] Vincent, M. et al. From dengue outbreaks to endemicity: Reunion island, france, 2018 to 2021. *European Communicable Disease Bulletin* **28** (2023).

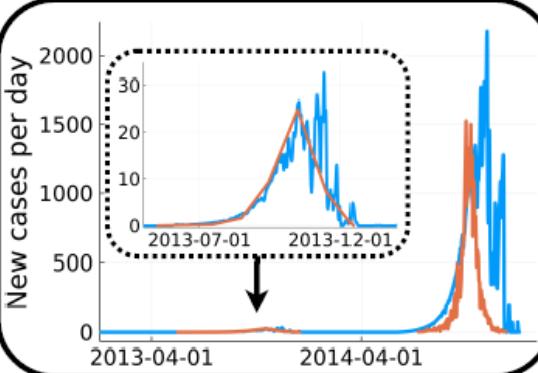
[24] Luo, L. et al. The dengue preface to endemic in mainland china: The historical largest outbreak by *Aedes albopictus* in guangzhou, 2014. *Infectious Diseases of Poverty* **6** (2017).



Observed dengue cases  
Predicted dengue cases



La Réunion, France (2017-2020)



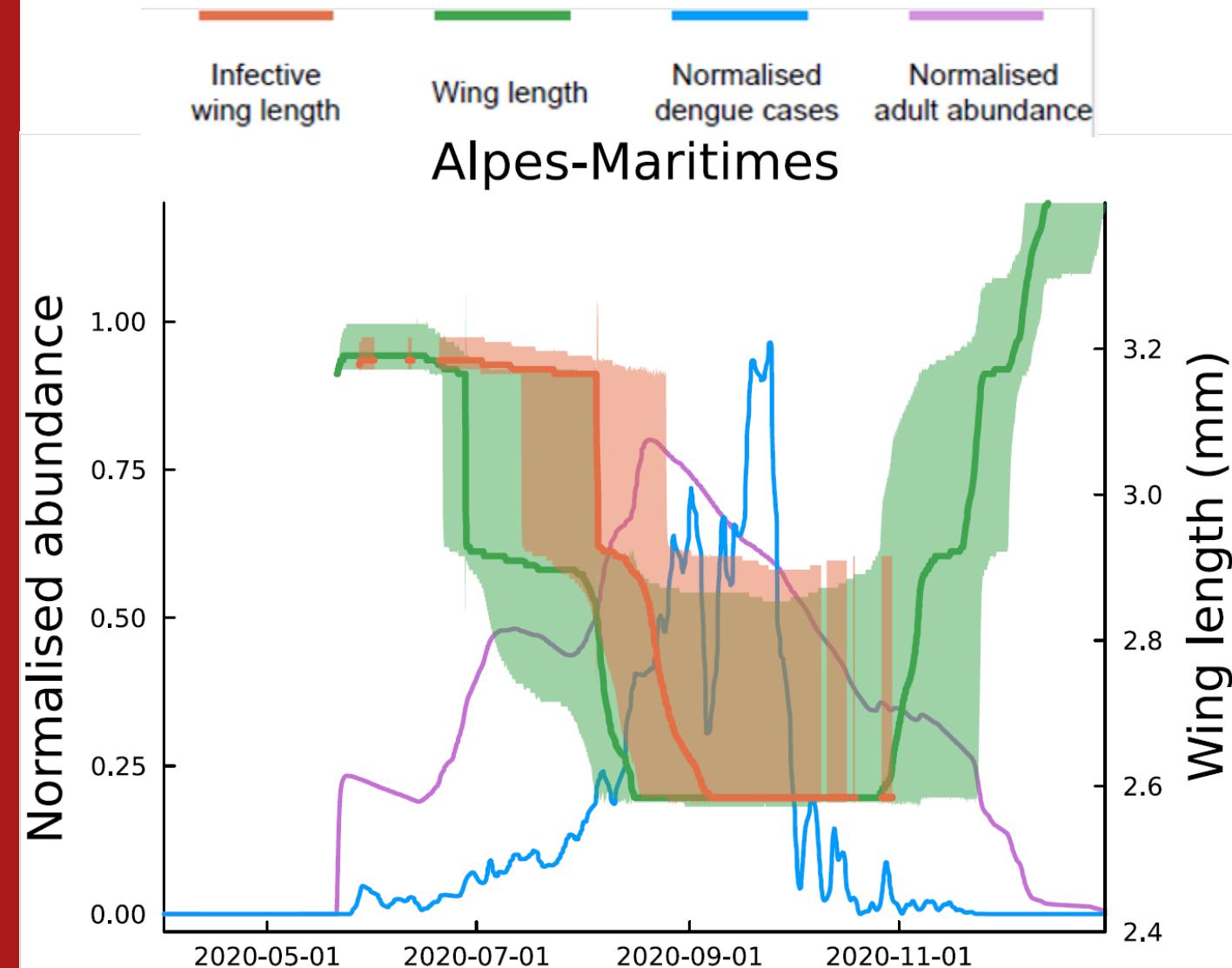
[23] La Réunion, France (2017-2020) [24] Guangzhou, China (2013-2014)



# RESULTS

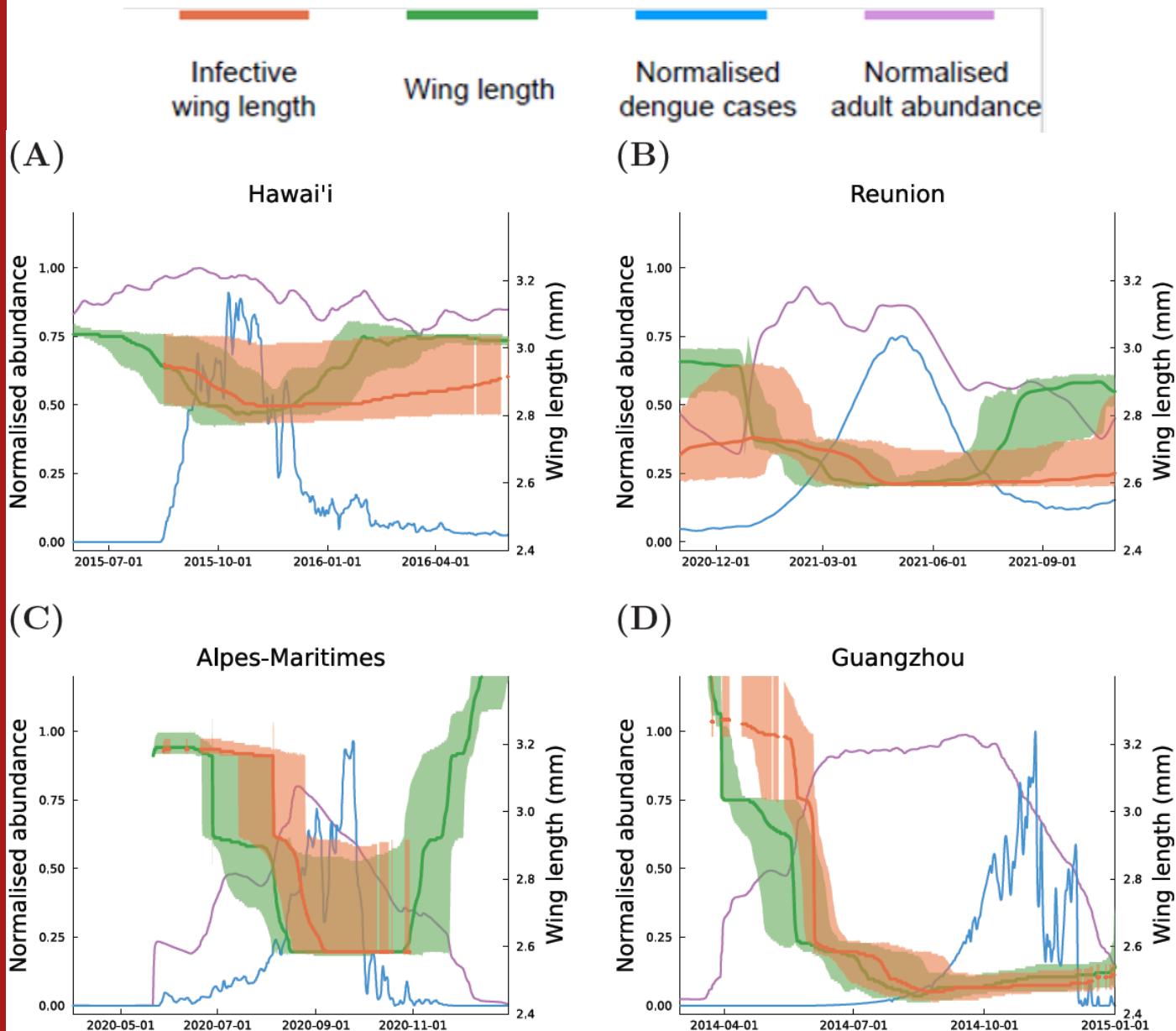
# ROLE OF TRAIT VARIATION

The wing-length distribution of infected and uninfected mosquitoes are different



# ROLE OF TRAIT VARIATION

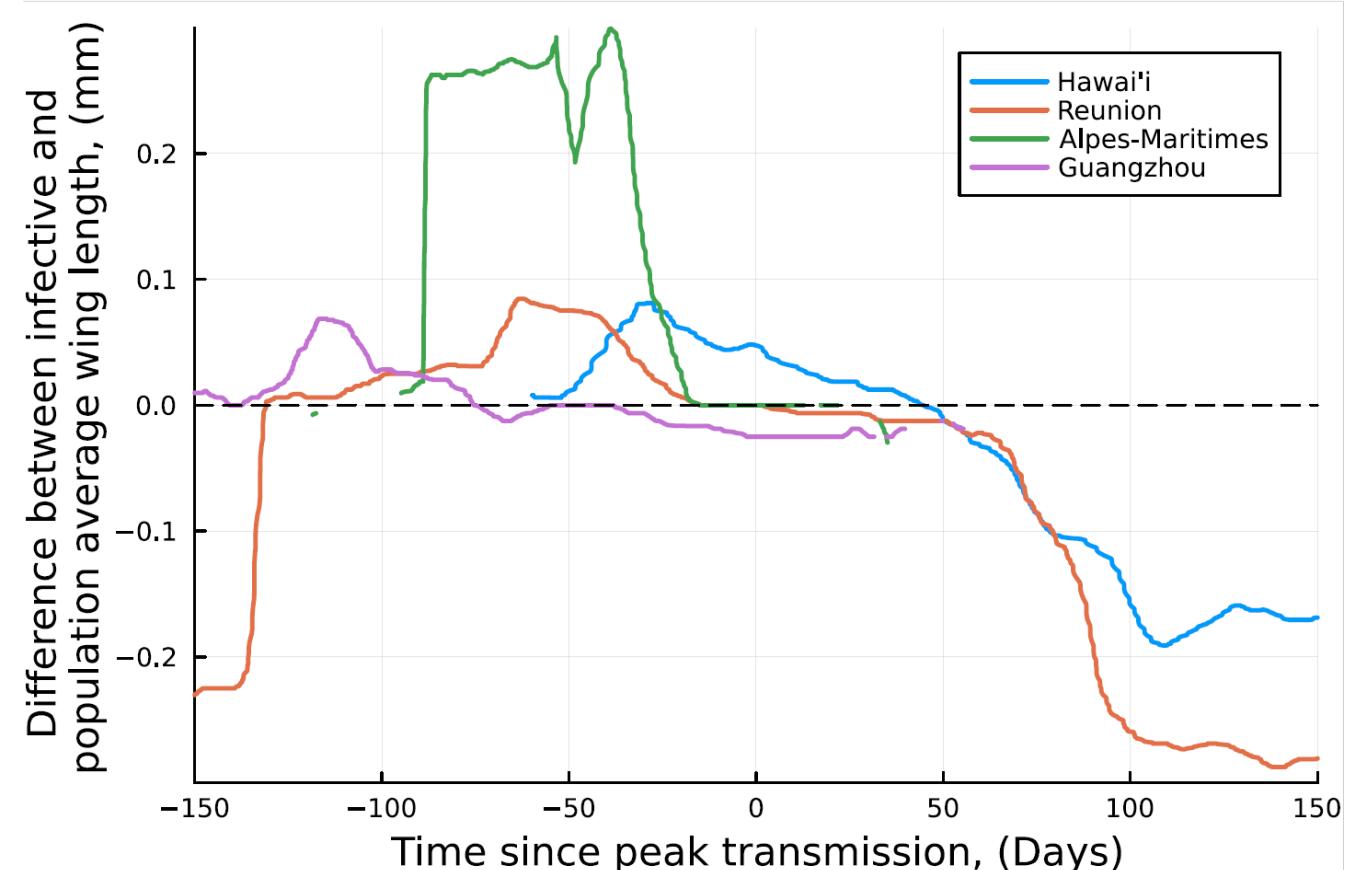
The wing-length distribution of infected and uninfected mosquitoes are different



# ROLE OF TRAIT VARIATION

The wing-length distribution of infected and uninfected mosquitoes are different

Large mosquitoes drive increase in dengue case numbers before peak infection

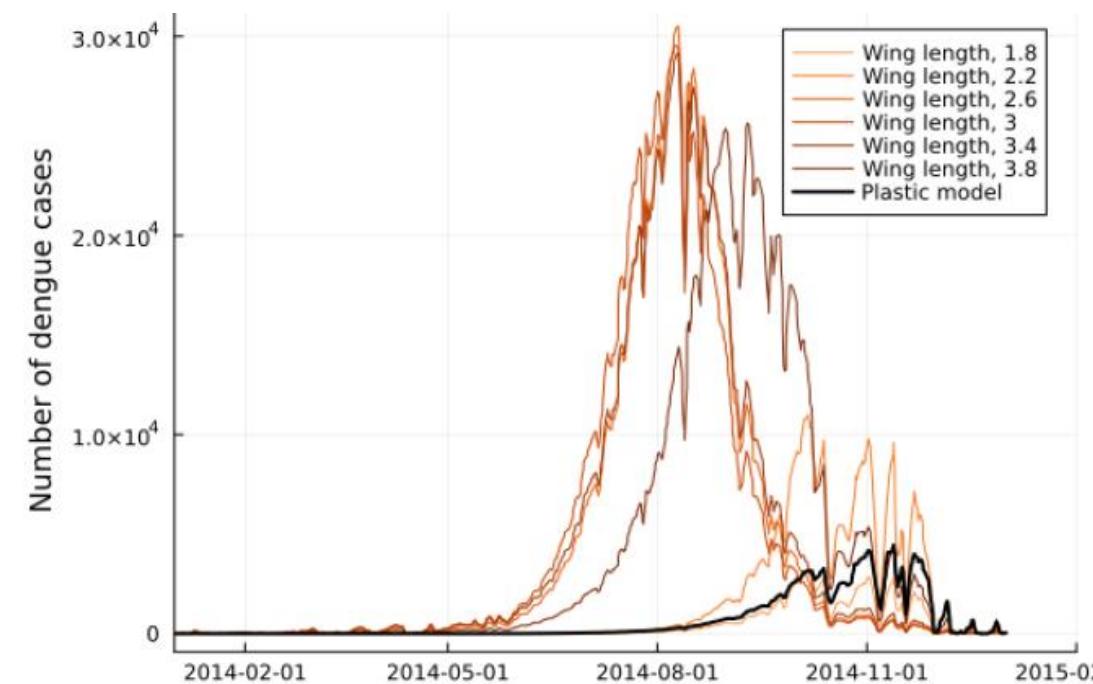
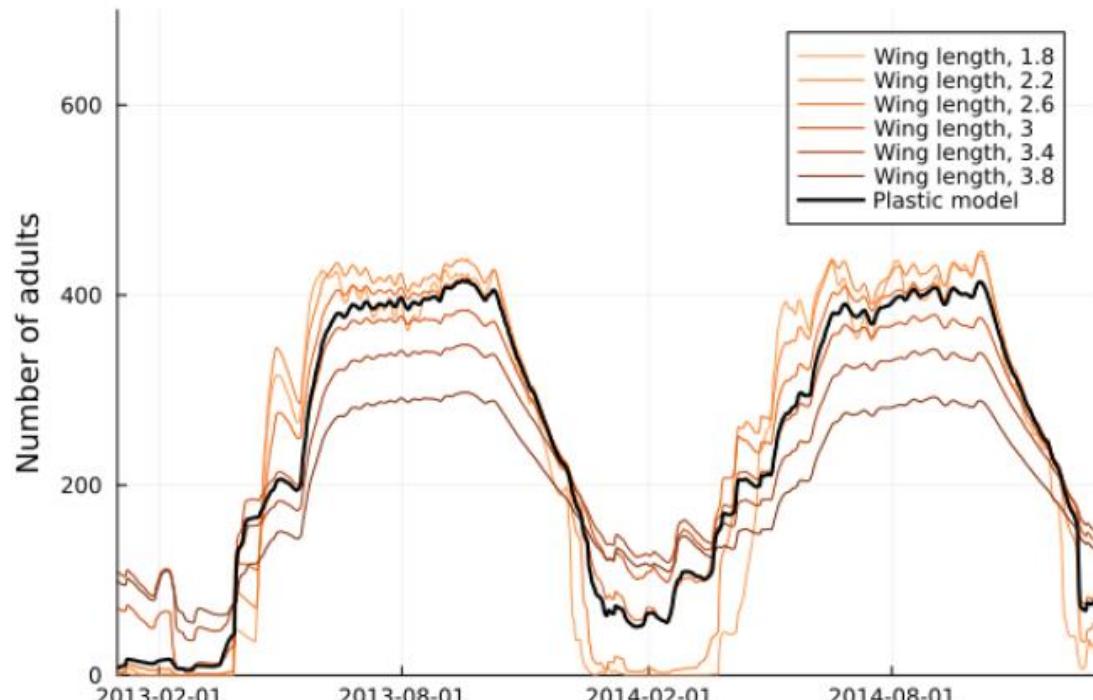


# ROLE OF TRAIT VARIATION

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Phenotypic plasticity alters disease dynamics



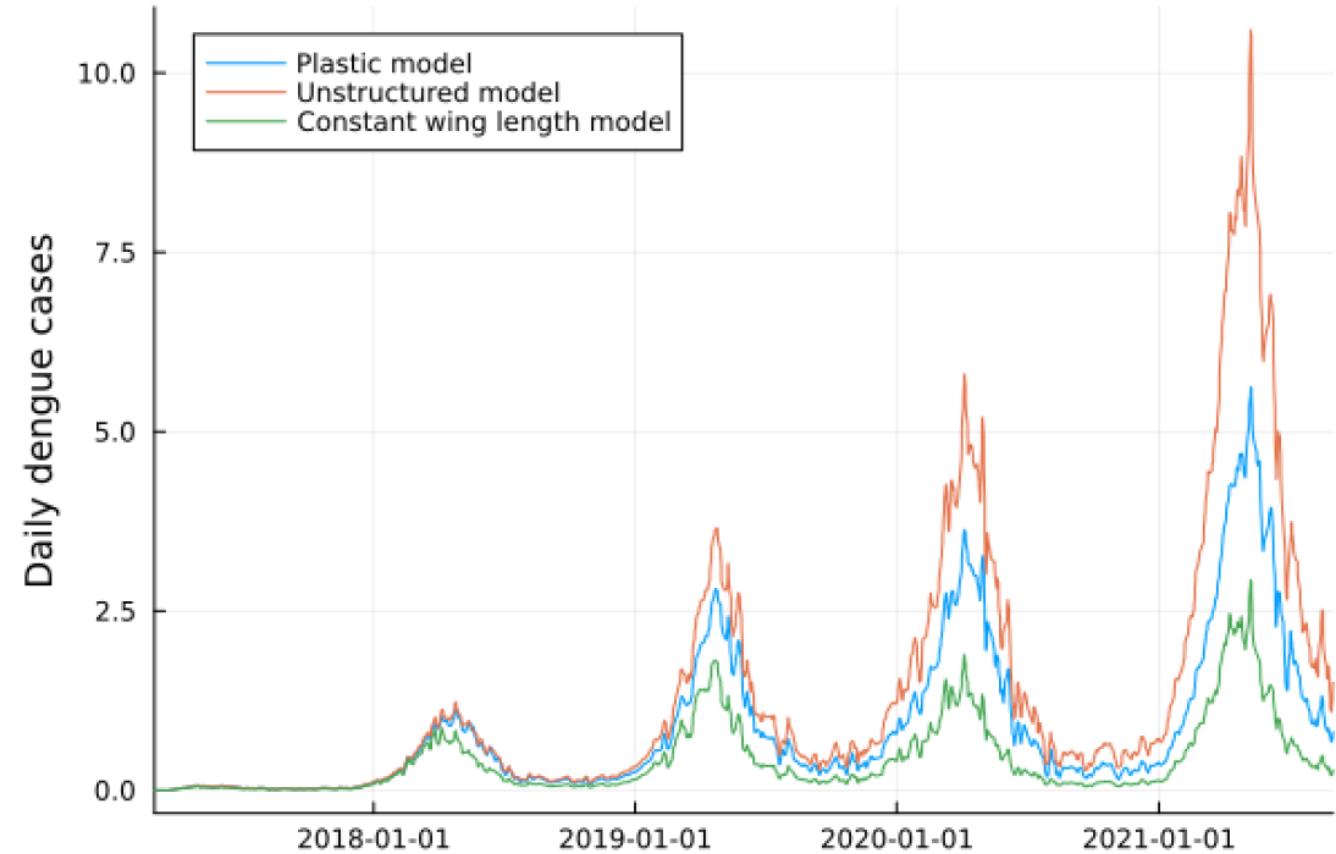
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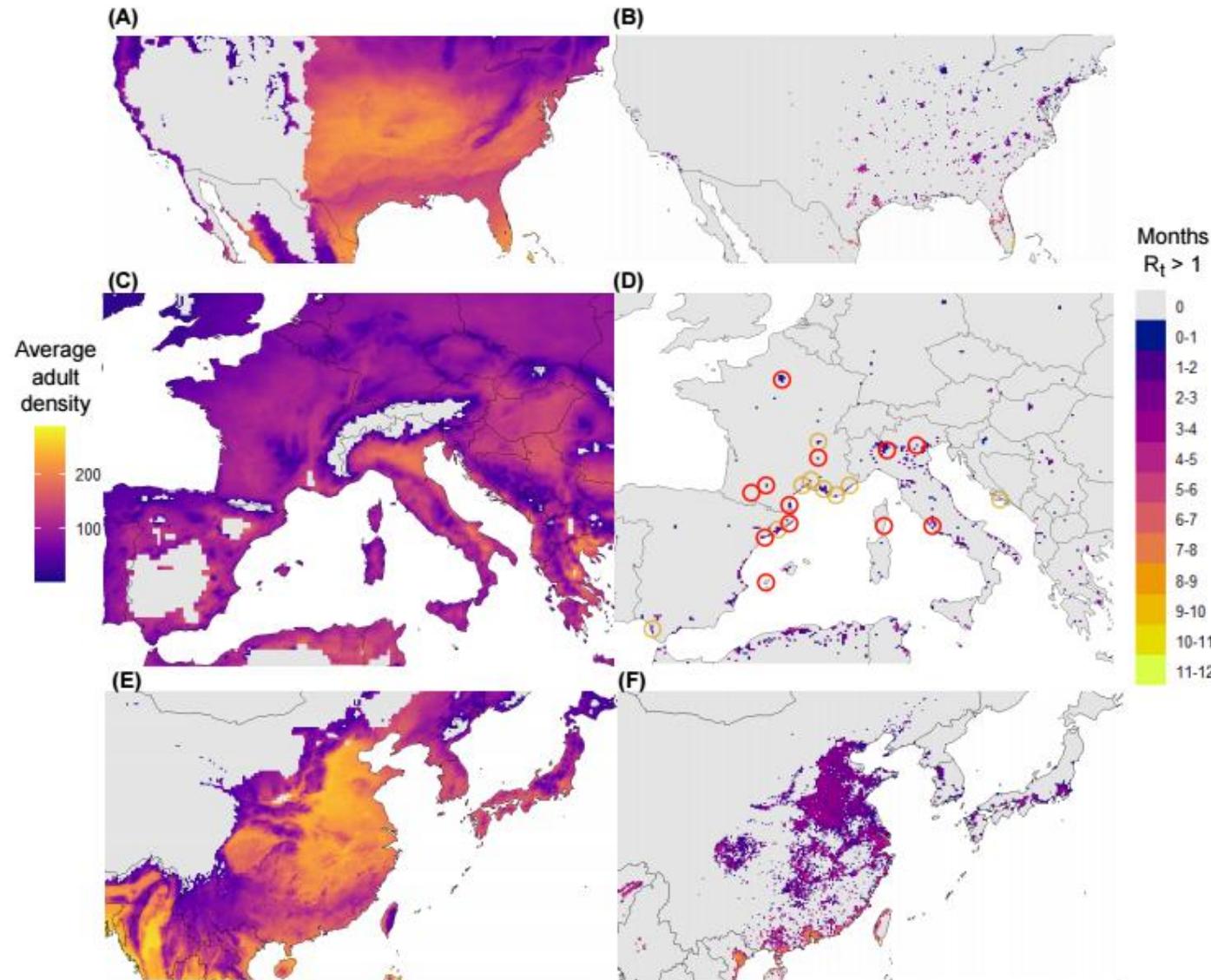
Trait structure alters disease dynamics



# GLOBAL RISK

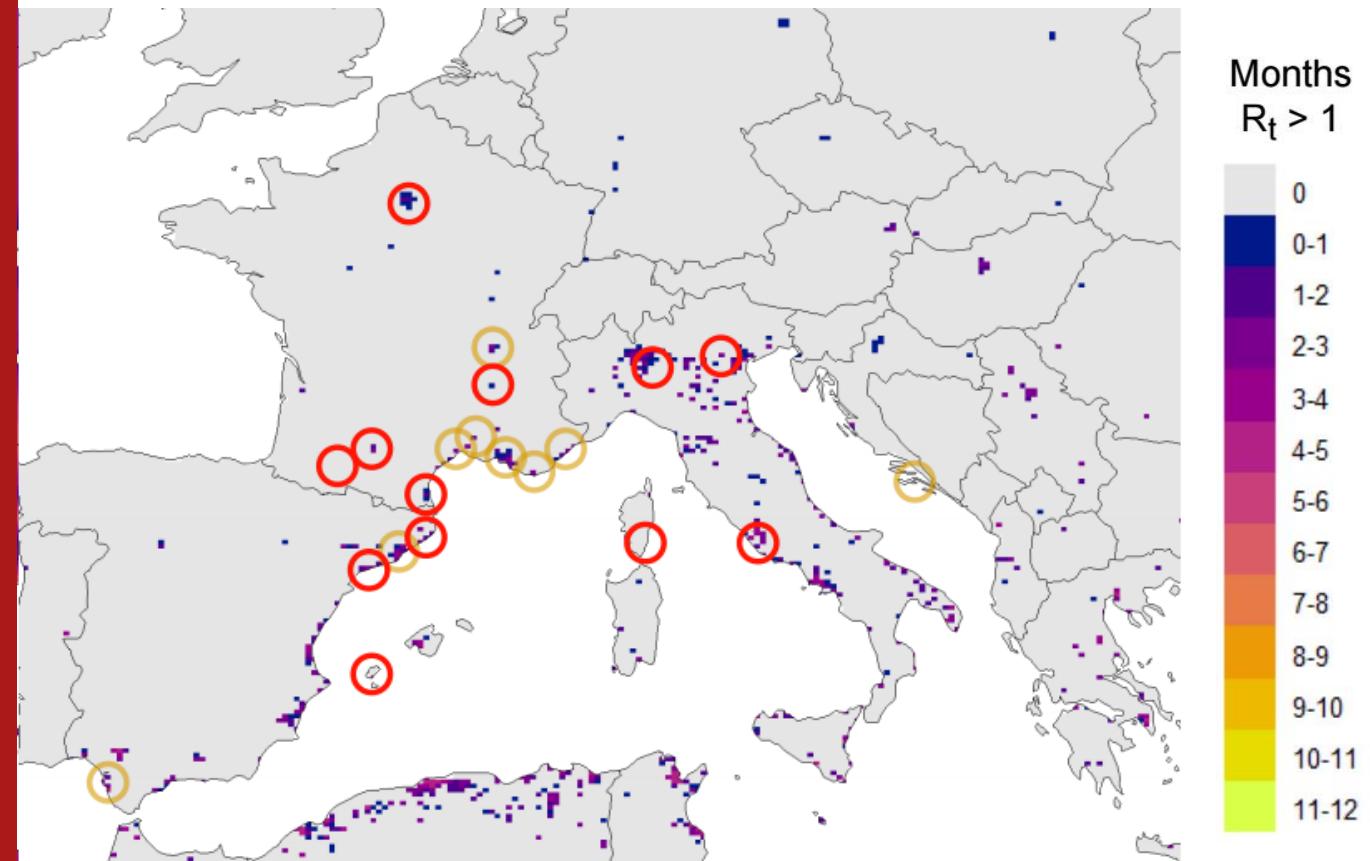
We simulate the model from  
2015-2019 and output  
average months  $R_t > 1$

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$$\left. \left. \left( \int_s^{s+1/\delta_{A_j}(s)} \frac{b(u) v_h(u) H_s(u)}{H_T} du \right) ds \right) \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$



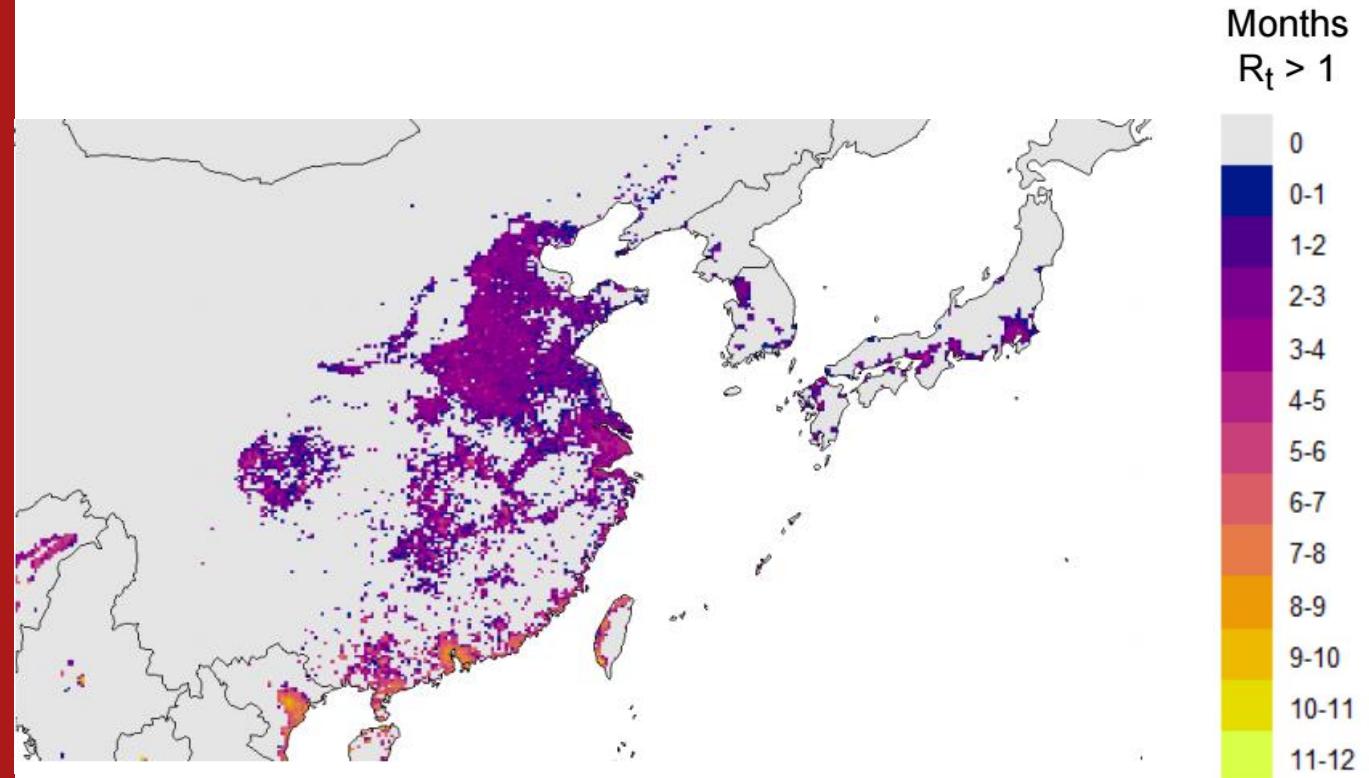
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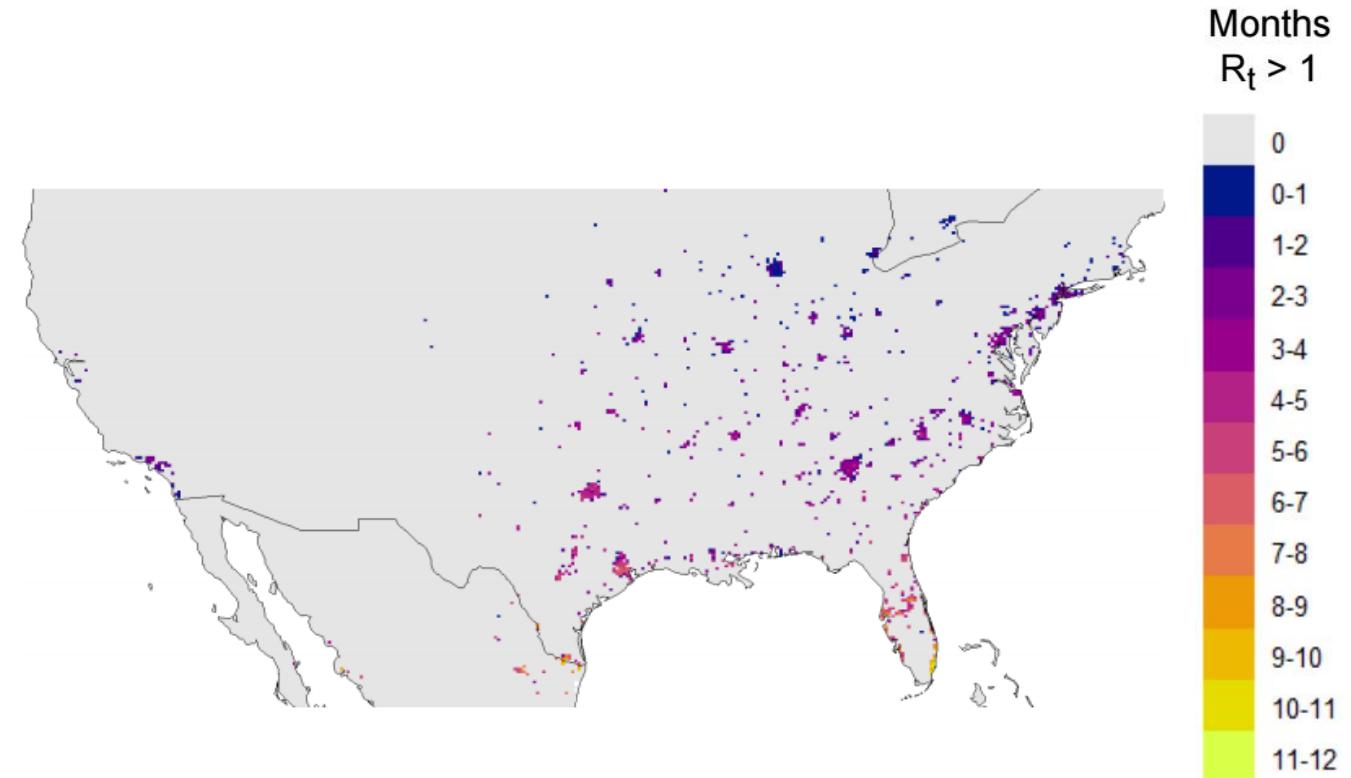
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We have produced a globally validated model of mosquito and disease dynamics



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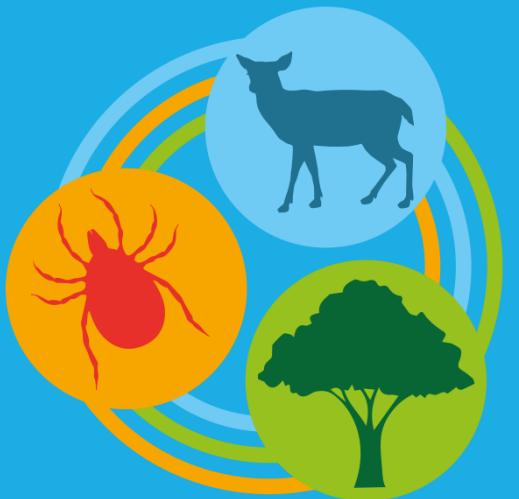
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Mosquito trait variation in response to developmental environmental experience alters disease dynamics



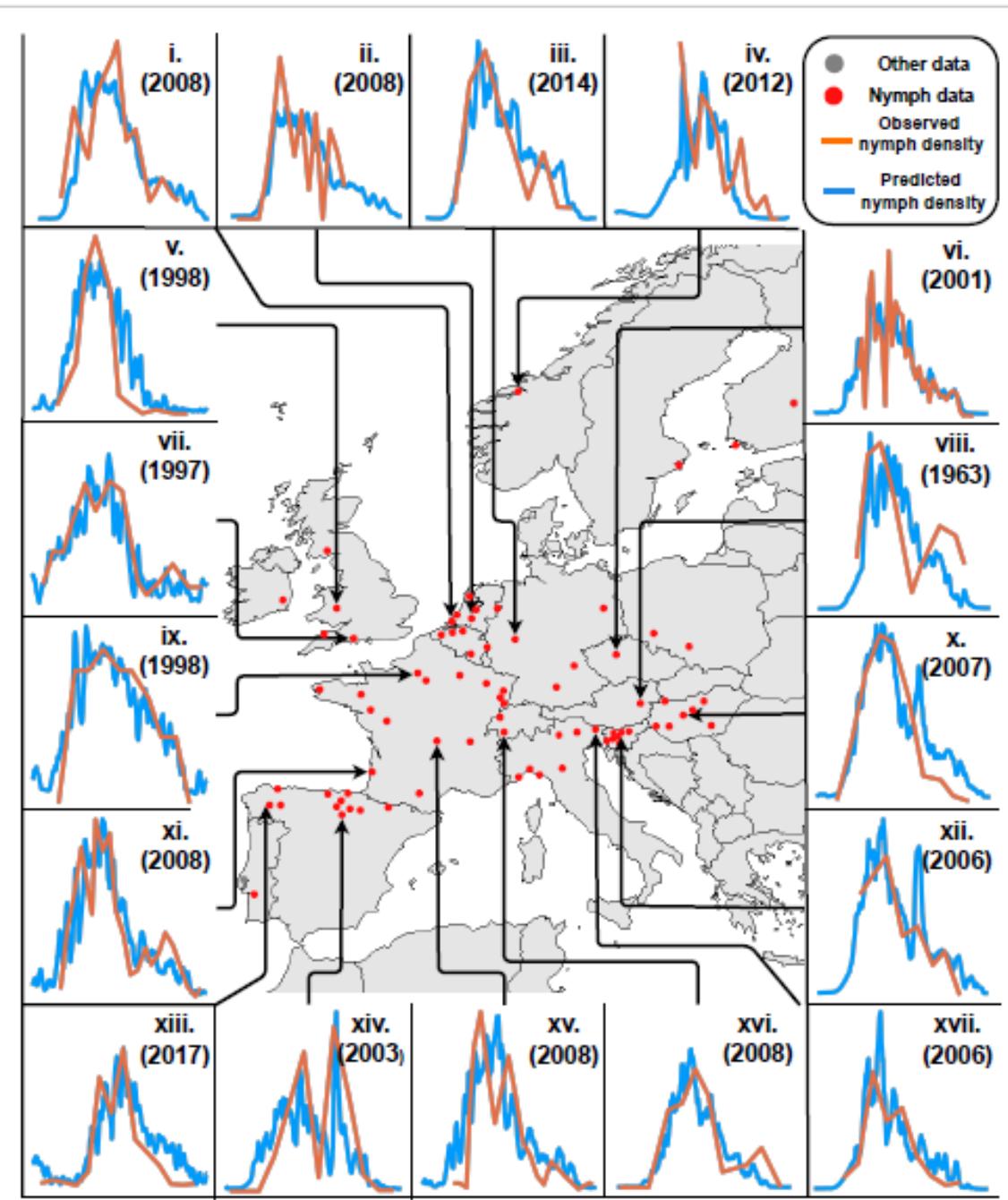
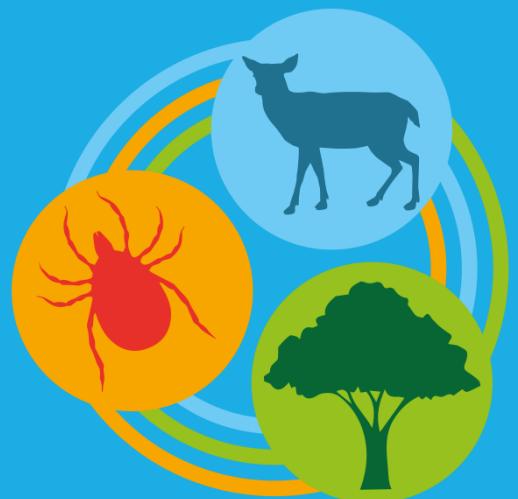
# TICKSOLVE

## STAGE-STRUCTURED DELAY-DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS FOR *IXODES RICINUS*



# TICKSOLVE

## STAGE-STRUCTURED DELAY-DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS FOR *IXODES RICINUS*



A photograph showing several mosquito larvae (wrigglers) swimming in a clear container of water. The larvae are elongated with dark heads and segmented bodies.

THANKS FOR LISTENING!

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Cobbold, Bethan Purse,  
David Ewing, Amanda  
Callaghan, Steven White



UK Centre for  
Ecology & Hydrology

# THE MODEL

$E_Y(t)$  – Active eggs

$E_D(t)$  – Diapausing eggs

$E_Q(t)$  – Quiescent eggs

$L(t)$  – Larvae

$A_j(t)$  – Adults in environmental class j

R – Recruitment terms

M – Maturation terms

P – Survival

$\delta$  – Mortality rate

$\tau$  – Stage duration

$$\frac{dE_Y(t)}{dt} = R_{E_Y}(t) - M_{E_Y}(t) - \delta_{E_Y}(t)E_Y(t),$$

$$\frac{dE_D(t)}{dt} = R_{E_D}(t) - M_{E_D}(t) - \delta_{E_D}(t)E_D(t),$$

$$\frac{dE_Q(t)}{dt} = R_{E_Q}(t) - M_{E_Q}(t) - \delta_{E_Q}(t)E_Q(t),$$

$$\frac{dL(t)}{dt} = R_L(t) - M_L(t) - \delta_L(t)L(t),$$

$$\frac{dA_j(t)}{dt} = R_{A_j}(t) - M_{A_j}(t) - \delta_{A_j}(t)A_j(t), \text{ for } j \in 1, \dots, m$$

$$\frac{dI_j(t)}{dt} = M_{A_j}(t) - \delta_{I_j}(t)I_j(t), \text{ for } j \in 1, \dots, m.$$

# RATE OF DEVELOPMENT

$$\frac{d\tau_{E_\gamma}(t)}{dt} = 1 - \frac{g_{E_\gamma}(t)}{g_{E_\gamma}(t - \tau_{E_\gamma}(t))},$$

$$\frac{d\tau_L(t)}{dt} = 1 - \frac{g_L(t)}{g_L(t - \tau_L(t))},$$

$$\frac{d\tau_P(t)}{dt} = 1 - \frac{g_P(t)}{g_P(t - \tau_P(t))},$$

$$\frac{d\tau_{\text{EIP}}(t)}{dt} = 1 - \frac{g_{\text{EIP}}(t)}{g_{\text{EIP}}(t - \tau_{\text{EIP}}(t))}.$$

# SURVIVAL EQUATIONS

$$\frac{dS_{E_\gamma}(t)}{dt} = S_{E_\gamma}(t) \left( \frac{g_{E_\gamma}(t)\delta_{E_\gamma}(t - \tau_{E_\gamma}(t))}{g_{E_\gamma}(t - \tau_{E_\gamma}(t))} - \delta_{E_\gamma}(t) \right),$$

$$\frac{dS_L(t)}{dt} = S_L(t) \left( \frac{g_L(t)\delta_L(t - \tau_L(t))}{g_L(t - \tau_L(t))} - \delta_L(t) \right),$$

$$\frac{dS_P(t)}{dt} = S_P(t) \left( \frac{g_P(t)\delta_P(t - \tau_P(t))}{g_P(t - \tau_P(t))} - \delta_P(t) \right), \quad (63)$$

$$\frac{dS_{\text{EIP}_j}(t)}{dt} = S_{\text{EIP}_j}(t) \left( \frac{g_{\text{EIP}}(t)\delta_{A_j}(t - \tau_{\text{EIP}}(t))}{g_{\text{EIP}}(t - \tau_{\text{EIP}}(t))} - \delta_{A_j}(t) \right), \quad \text{for } j \in 1, \dots, m.$$

# TRANSITION FUNCTIONS

$$\bar{\alpha}(t) = \frac{\int_{t-\tau_p(t)-\tau_L(t-\tau_p(t))}^{t-\tau_p(t)} \frac{F(s)}{L(s)} ds}{\tau_L(t - \tau_p(t))}.$$

$$w_j(T_{avg}(t), \bar{\alpha}(t)) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } g(w(T_{avg}(t), \bar{\alpha})(t)) = w_j \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

RT

$$R_{t-\tau_{\text{EIP}}(t)} = \left[ \sum_{j=1}^m \left( \int_t^{t+\tau_{\text{REC}}} \frac{g_{\text{EIP}}(s)}{g_{\text{EIP}}(s-\tau_{\text{EIP}}(s))} b(s-\tau_{\text{EIP}}(s)) h_v(s-\tau_{\text{EIP}}(s)) 2\kappa A_j(s-\tau_{\text{EIP}}(s)) S_{\text{EIP}_j}(s)}{H_T} \right. \right. \\ \times \left. \left. \left( \int_s^{s+1/\delta_{A_j}(s)} \frac{b(u) v_h(u) H_s(u)}{H_T} du \right) ds \right) \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$