



## Mosquitoes Are Poised to Swamp Our Health Systems

### 蚊子将要击垮我们的医疗卫生系统

Date: Apr. 24, 2023

When you think of dangerous animals, the ones that typically **spring to mind** have teeth or claws. But what about wings and a **proboscis**?

说到危险的动物，你通常会想到有尖牙利爪的动物。但你会害怕有翅膀和长吻的动物吗？

In many countries, **mosquitoes** are nothing more than a **nuisance**. But in others, they spread **tropical** diseases that kill at least 700,000 people a year — more than any other animal, according to estimates from the World Health Organization. Unfortunately, they're likely to get deadlier. As greenhouse-gas emissions make our planet hotter and wetter, disease-spreading mosquitoes are **thriving**.

在许多国家，蚊子只不过是一种令人讨厌的动物。但在其他地方，它们传播的热带疾病每年至少导致 70 万人死亡，根据世界卫生组织的估计，蚊子比任何其他动物造成的死亡人数都要多。不幸的是，蚊子可能会变得更加致命。由于温室气体排放让我们的地球变得更炎热、更潮湿，传播疾病的蚊子正在全球肆虐。

With nations in South America battling some of the worst **outbreaks** of mosquito-borne disease in decades, the case of a British woman who caught **dengue** while on holiday in France last summer has **sparked** warnings about similar outbreaks in countries where insect-carried **pestilence** hasn't previously been **endemic**. Climate change is making tropical diseases everybody's problem.

南美国家正与几十年来最严重的蚊媒疾病爆发作斗争，而去年夏天一名英国妇女在法国度假时感染登革热给了我们警示，以前从未流行过蚊媒

534 Words

**poised to do sth.** 准备好，蓄势待发 | The cat crouched in the grass, poised to jump. 猫咪蹲踞在草丛中，准备跳跃。

**swamp** [swɑ:mp] v. 使不堪承受；淹没 n. 沼泽 | He is swamped with work. 他工作忙得不可开交。

**spring to mind** 突然出现在脑海里，立即被想到 | Two questions spring to mind. 脑子里跳出了两个问题。

**proboscis** [prəˈbə:sis] n. (昆虫等的) 喙，针状吻；长鼻子

**mosquito** [məˈski:toʊ] n. 蚊子

**nuisance** [ˈnu:sns] n. 麻烦事，讨厌的人（或东西） | It's a nuisance having to get up that early on a Sunday morning. 星期天早上还得那么早起床，真烦人。

**tropical** [ˈtra:pɪkl] adj. 热带的

**thrive** [θraɪv] v. 蓬勃发展，茁壮成长 | New businesses thrive in this area. 新企业在这地区蓬勃兴起。

**outbreak** [ˈaʊtbreɪk] n. (暴力、疾病等坏事的) 爆发，突然发生 | An outbreak of food poisoning led to the deaths of five people. 突发的食物中毒导致 5 人死亡。

**-borne** (用于名词后构成形容词)

瘟疫的国家也可能会爆发类似的疫情。气候变化使热带疾病与每个人息息相关。

**Take** dengue — sometimes known as “break-bone fever”, which gives you some idea of its symptoms — which has **exploded** over the past few decades. Cases reported to the WHO increased to 5.2 million in 2019 from just more than 500,000 in 2000. In the 1970s, dengue was endemic in nine countries. Nowadays, about 140 countries deal with outbreaks of dengue regularly. And those outbreaks are getting larger and more severe. The virus and associated mosquitoes — *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* — are not only **booming** in endemic countries, they're also pushing into higher altitudes and latitudes. Where the mosquito is, the virus is likely to follow: Sudan has reported dengue cases in the capital city for the first time, and France saw a chain of locally **transmitted** cases last summer.

以登革热为例。登革热有时被称为“断骨热”，这个名称能让你对它的症状有一些了解。在过去的几十年里，登革热病例呈爆炸式增长。向世卫组织报告的病例从2000年的50多万例增加到2019年的520万例。20世纪70年代，登革热在9个国家流行。如今，约有140个国家定期出现登革热疫情，而且这些疫情的规模越来越大，越来越严重。登革病毒和相关的蚊子——埃及伊蚊和白纹伊蚊——不仅在疫情流行国家肆虐，而且还在向海拔和纬度更高的地区挺进。哪里有蚊子，哪里就可能有病毒：苏丹首次报告首都出现登革热病例，法国去年夏天也出现了一系列在当地传播的病例。

**Judging by** what's happening in Latin America, 2023 could be even worse. In a WHO **press conference** at the start of April about the worrying dengue and chikungunya (a related virus spread by the same mosquitoes) epidemics there, Raman Velyayudhan, head of the WHO global program on the control of neglected tropical diseases, said that trend could continue around the world this year.

关注公众号：拾点外刊 免费下载电子版 附音频

表示“由……携带的”，“通过……传播的” | rocket-borne weapons 箭载武器

#### ◇ 背景知识

#### **dengue**

登革热是登革病毒经蚊媒传播引起的急性虫媒传染病。临床表现为起病急骤，高热，头痛，肌肉、骨关节剧烈酸痛等。本病主要在热带和亚热带地区流行，我国广东、香港、澳门等地是登革热流行区。由于本病系由伊蚊传播，故流行有一定的季节性，一般在每年的5~11月份，高峰在7~9月份。

**spark** [spa:rk] v. 引发，触发；冒火花 n. 火花，火星 | Winds brought down power lines, sparking a fire. 大风刮断电线，引起了火灾。

**pestilence** ['pestɪləns] n. 瘟疫

**endemic** [en'demɪk] adj. (疾病或问题)地方性的，流行的

**take** [teɪk] v. 以……为例，将……作为例证 | Lots of couples have problems in the first year of marriage. Take Ann and Paul. 在婚后头一年里，许多夫妇都出现一些问题。安和保罗就是个例子。

**explode** [ɪk'spləʊd] v. 突增，激增；爆炸；勃然大怒 | The population explodes to 40,000 during the tourist season. 旅游季节，人口激增至4万。

**boom** [bu:m] v. 迅速发展，激增，繁荣昌盛 n. 激增，繁荣 | By the 1980s, the computer industry was

从拉丁美洲的现状来看，2023 年的情况可能会更糟。4 月初世卫组织针对令人担忧的登革热和基孔肯雅热（由同一种蚊子传播的相关病毒）疫情举行了新闻发布会，会上世卫组织控制被忽视的热带病全球项目负责人拉曼·维利尤丹说，这一趋势今年可能在世界各地继续下去。

There's been some progress with **vaccines**. Nigeria and Ghana have **provisionally approved** a new malaria vaccine developed by scientists at the University of Oxford, and Japanese drugmaker Takeda Pharmaceutical Co.'s dengue shot is being steadily **rolled out** around the world.

疫苗方面已经取得了一些进展。尼日利亚和加纳已经暂时批准了牛津大学科学家开发的一种新型疟疾疫苗，日本武田制药公司的登革热疫苗正在世界各地逐步上市。

Another promising tool is a **bacteria** called Wolbachia. Found in about 50% of insects, it's been shown to **outcompete** viruses like dengue, Zika and chikungunya in yellow fever mosquitoes, making them less likely to **pass on** the disease to humans. One study in Indonesia showed that introducing mosquitoes **infected** with Wolbachia reduced dengue cases by 77%. The method is now being rolled out nationwide for the first time in Brazil.

另一个大有希望的工具是一种叫做沃尔巴克氏体的细菌。它存在于大约 50% 的昆虫中，已经被证明在黄热蚊体内能压制登革热、寨卡和基孔肯雅等病毒，使它们不太可能将疾病传播给人类。印度尼西亚的一项研究表明，引入感染沃尔巴克氏体细菌的蚊子使登革热病例减少了 77%。巴西首先在全国推广该方法。

There are plenty of challenges ahead. Felipe Colón-González, technology lead at the Wellcome Trust, stressed the need for better collaboration between researchers and policy makers, more data collection, and sharing and talent development, especially in low-income countries, which **bear the brunt of** climate change and tropical disease.

前面还有很多挑战。维康信托基金会的技术主管菲利普·科隆-冈萨雷斯  
关注公众号：拾点外刊 免费下载电子版 附音频

booming. 到 20 世纪 80 年代时，计算机行业迅猛发展。

**transmit** [træns'mɪt] v. 传播，传染；传送，传递 | Mathematical knowledge is transmitted from teacher to student. 数学知识由教师传授给学生。

**judging by/from sth.** 依据某事来判断 | Judging by appearances can be misleading. 单凭外表判断可能出错。

**press conference** 新闻发布会，记者招待会

**vaccine** [væk'si:n] n. 疫苗

**provisionally** [prə'vɪʒənəli] adv. 暂时地 | The meeting has been provisionally arranged for Friday. 会议暂定于星期五举行。

**approve** [ə'pru:v] v. 批准，通过；赞成，同意 | Do you approve of my idea? 你同意我的想法吗？

**roll out** 在市场上推出某物；把某物碾平；铺开；离开 | The company expects to roll out the new software in September. 公司希望在 9 月推出这款新软件。

**bacteria** [bæk'tɪriə] n. 细菌

**outcompete** [aʊtkəm'pi:t] v. 胜过，打败

**pass on ... to ...** 把（疾病）传染给…… | One catches the virus and they pass it on to the rest. 一个人感染这种病毒，然后传染给其余的人。

**infect** [ɪn'fekt] v. 传染，使感染 | Thousands of people have been

斯强调需要加强研究人员和决策者之间的合作，收集和分享更多的数据，推动人才发展，特别是在受气候变化和热带疾病影响最严重的低收入国家。

A widespread outbreak, especially of a disease that hasn't historically been endemic, would certainly be enough to **overwhelm** even the health systems of high-income countries, as the Covid-19 pandemic demonstrated with **tragic** consequences. As Colón-González says: "If we don't pay attention, it will happen again."

正如新冠疫情带来的悲剧性后果所表明的那样，一场疾病的大规模爆发，尤其是过去没有流行过的疾病，肯定足以压垮高收入国家的医疗卫生系统。正如科隆-冈萨雷斯所说：“如果我们不重视，它还会再次发生。”

infected. 成千上万的人已被感染。

**bear the brunt of** 承受某事的主要压力，首当其冲 | Young people are bearing the brunt of unemployment. 年轻人首当其冲，面临失业压力。

**overwhelm** [ˌoʊvərˈwelm] v. 压垮；击败；使不知所措，使难以承受 | We were overwhelmed by requests for information. 各方的问讯使我们应接不暇。

**tragic** ['trædʒɪk] adj. 悲惨的，可悲的 | He was killed in a tragic accident at the age of 24. 他 24 岁时在一次悲惨的事故中丧命。

## ➤ 脉络梳理

- Para. 1-3 引出话题：随着全球变暖加剧，蚊子传播的热带疾病会造成更多人死亡
- Para. 4-5 以登革热为例说明蚊子造成的流行疾病的严重性
- Para. 6-7 指出疫苗和沃尔巴克氏体细菌能有效对抗登革热等蚊子传播的疾病
- Para. 8-9 指出还有许多工作要做，应当对蚊媒疾病多加重视，否则会造成严重后果

## ➤ 长难句拆解

伴随状语  
|  
With nations in South America battling ... in decades,  
|  
主语 后置定语，修饰 case 定语从句，修饰 woman  
|  
the case of a British woman who caught dengue while on holiday in France last summer  
|  
谓语+宾语 后置定语，修饰 warnings 定语从句，修饰 countries  
|  
has sparked warnings about similar outbreaks in countries where insect-carried pestilence hasn't  
|  
previously been endemic.