The VectorBase Newsletter
Issue 5 – November 2008

New data

• *Insecticide Resistance*

The insecticide resistance data section of VectorBase has been completely revamped! All the data are now annotated, stored, and searched using relevant ontologies (MIRO, GAZ). A new user interface based on AJAX is now available[1]. Multiple criteria can be used to search the database and there is the option of exporting the results to a spreadsheet file. Mosquito collection sites with known coordinates have been also plotted on a map and the user can retrieve the corresponding assay data just by clicking on the collection site. Data submission can be done using either the online web interface or via a spreadsheet. Currently the database holds data for more than 1100 insecticide resistance assays from Africa and Asia. The WHO ANVR group will by using VectorBase as its repository for insecticide resistance data and a workshop took place in Senegal this month to train curators from 12 African countries.

• *Traces for blasting*

For organisms without any genome available, such as the tsetse fly *Glossina morsitans morsitans* and the kissing bug *Rhodnius prolixus*, we are now offering the possibility to search against the traces (unassembled sequencing reads). So you can now do a Blast search against all the genomic data available for these vectors.
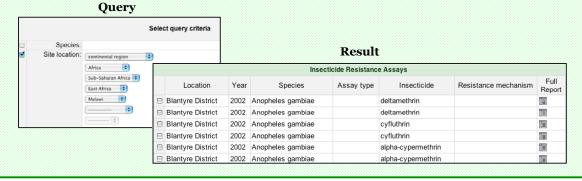
New service

• *Forum*

Following several user requests we have set up a forum[2] for the community to post conference announcements, job offers, ask a question or just discuss a topic. The forum is open to anyone but posting message requires registration (it takes just 2 minutes to register!

VectorBase top tip

Did you know that when you perform a query in an ontology-based database this can be expanded to include all "is_a" children of the original query term? Thus, if when looking at the insecticide resistance data in VectorBase you are not certain about a specific term, you can search for a more generic term. All relevant results will then be displayed, even if districts and arrondissements are not part of the original record in the database.

Query

Select query criteria
Species:
Site location: continental region
Africa
Sub-Saharan Africa
East Africa
Malawi

Result

	Location	Year	Species	Assay type	Insecticide	Resistance mechanism	Full Report
☐	Blantyre District	2002	Anopheles gambiae		deltamethrin		
☐	Blantyre District	2002	Anopheles gambiae		deltamethrin		
☐	Blantyre District	2002	Anopheles gambiae		cyfluthrin		
☐	Blantyre District	2002	Anopheles gambiae		cyfluthrin		
☐	Blantyre District	2002	Anopheles gambiae		alpha-cypermethrin		
☐	Blantyre District	2002	Anopheles gambiae		alpha-cypermethrin		

Insecticide Resistance Assays

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[1] http://anobase.vectorbase.org/ir/
[2] http://www.vectorbase.org/sections/Forum/index.php