

Mosquitoes have been almost completely wiped out on two Chinese islands

Notes & Cues:	<p>Article:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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%.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The results were so successful they nearly eradicated the entire female mosquito population on the two islands.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>”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.</p>
Summary:	