INDIVIDUAL AND INTERACTIVE EFFECTS OF A PREDATOR AND CONTROPHIC SPECIES ON MOSQUITO POPULATIONS

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Abstract. Species sharing the same trophic level as mosquito larvae (hereafter, controphic species) may have complex effects on mosquitoes by sharing both predators and food resources. We conducted an outdoor artificial pool experiment to assess the individual and interactive effects of a predator (Anax imperator) and controphic species (primarily Daphnia magna) on larval populations of two common mosquitoes, Culex pipiens and Culiseta longiareolata.

Controphic species did not significantly affect survival to pupation of *C. pipiens* but did increase time to metamorphosis and reduce size at metamorphosis. *Culex pipiens* and *D. magna*, both primarily filter feeders, probably compete for food resources. Controphic species caused a small reduction (21.9%) in *C. longiareolata* survival, an unexpected result given that *C. longiareolata* larvae are thought to be primarily periphyton grazers while *D. magna* is a filter feeder. Controphic species did not affect *C. longiareolata* time to, or size at, pupation.

Anax imperator reduced C. longiareolata survival to pupation (78%) and size at pupation (11.5%) while increasing development time in males only (11.3%). Anax imperator caused a smaller (32.4%), but statistically significant, reduction in the number of C. pipiens surviving to the pupal stage but did not significantly affect size at or time to pupation. The predator did not reduce controphic species densities, and controphic species did not result in increased predator growth.

We predicted that controphic species, by serving as competitors, would result in fewer C. pipiens surviving to pupation in the absence of predators. In the presence of the predator, the negative competitive effect of controphic species would be attenuated by the positive effect of serving as alternative prey. Our results followed this pattern although the predator \times controphic species interaction was not statistically significant (P=0.157). Because previous studies showed that D. magna did not affect predation rates by A. imperator on C. longiareolata larvae, and because controphic species did not have a strong competitive effect, we did not predict and did not find a predator \times controphic species interactive effect.

Key words: Anax imperator; biological control; competition; controphic species; Culex pipiens; Culiseta longiareolata; Daphnia magna; interactive effects; mosquitoes; predation; trophic cascade.

Introduction

Species sharing the same trophic level (hereafter, controphic species) may interact in complex ways. Those species sharing the same food resources should compete when resources are limiting. Competition is often important in structuring many communities (reviews by Connell 1983, Schoener 1983, 1993, Chase et al. 2002) including temporary pool communities (e.g., Scott 1990, Wilbur and Fauth 1990, Blaustein and Margalit 1994a, Mokany and Shine 2003).

Despite ecologists' understanding that competition is often a strong organizing force of communities, com-

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petition between mosquitoes and controphic species such as zooplankton and anuran larvae has, surprisingly, been largely ignored as a potential regulating factor of mosquitoes. The handful of studies that have been conducted suggest that such controphic species are important competitors of larval mosquitoes (Blaustein and Karban 1990, Blaustein and Margalit 1994*a*, 1996, Chase and Knight 2003, Mokany and Shine 2003).

Sharing the same trophic level does not necessarily mean that diet overlap is high and that there is potential for resource competition. For example, many *Anopheles* and *Culex* mosquito larvae are primarily filter feeders, consuming phytoplankton and microzooplankton (such as protozoa) while many *Aedes* and *Culiseta* mosquito larvae are primarily periphyton feeders (Clements 1992). Since periphyton and phytoplankton may compete for nutrients (e.g., Axler and Reuter 1996), periphyton grazers may free up nutrients for phytoplankton and, conversely, phytoplankton grazers may free

up nutrients for periphyton. Thus, controphic species that have low dietary overlap may be mutualists (e.g., McLachlan 1981, Bronmark et al. 1991, Heard 1994).

Controphic species often also share the same predators and thus serve as alternative prey. By serving as alternative prey, the immediate interaction of two controphic species may be mutualistic with each prey species reducing predation intensity on the other (Sih and Krupa 1996, Ackerman 2002, Ostman and Ives 2003). The influence of the alternative prey on predation may be influenced by the ratio of one prey species to its alternative prey; the greater the density of the alternative prey to the prey species in question, the more likely a greater reduction of predation intensity. It is also influenced by prey preferences. Prey preference may be further influenced by the relative abundance of different prey species; predators may "switch," feeding disproportionately more on abundant prey species and disproportionately less on rare species (Murdoch 1969, Lawton et al. 1974, Kimbrell and Holt 2004). Switching should have very important consequences for mosquito population dynamics; since mosquitoes often comprise a very small fraction of prey available to a generalist predator (e.g., Blaustein 1992), switching by predators would result in mosquitoes being preyed upon even less than at random.

While alternative prey will likely reduce predation intensity over the short term as shown in outdoor mesocosm (Wilbur and Fauth 1990) and laboratory (Chesson 1989, Blaustein 1990, Blaustein and Byard 1993) experiments, the effects may be the opposite over a longer term. Apparent competition (Holt 1977, Holt and Kotler 1987) may occur; because of the high density of the alternative prey's population, the predator may respond numerically (population growth) and developmentally (individual predators may grow faster). Thus, while two controphic species that share predators may initially have a mutualistic interaction, over a longer time scale predation intensity may increase, and the prey species should suffer more predation. In the case of mosquito control, such an effect has been suggested (e.g., Bence 1988, Blaustein 1992) but not experimentally assessed. It has been demonstrated in agricultural predator-pest systems (Karban et al. 1994, Ostman and Ives 2003).

Prey preference can also be influenced by prey size (Zaret 1980, Dillon 1985). Size-selective predation can strongly influence pool community structure (Sprules 1972, Blaustein et al. 1996). In many mosquito species, females are larger than males (Juliano and Stoffregen 1994, Lounibos et al. 1996, Hechtel and Juliano 1997). A size-selective predator may thus affect the sex ratio within a mosquito population. In addition, in many mosquito species, protandry occurs (i.e., males develop to adult faster [Barr 1985, Frank et al. 1985]). Thus, females of protandrous species may be at higher risk of being preyed upon by aquatic predators, both be-

cause they spend a longer time in the water and because they are larger.

The influence of a controphic species on another species includes not only the individual influences of competition and altered predation intensity, but also their combined effect. For example, a predator may act to mediate competition or coexistence (Paine 1966, Caswell 1978, Werner 1991, Chase et al. 2002). With rare exception (Chambers 1985), there has been almost no exploration of how a controphic species affects mosquito populations by sharing both resources and predators

Irrespective of controphic species, predators can strongly influence mosquito populations via consumptive and nonconsumptive effects on mosquitoes themselves and on mosquitoes' resources. Amphibians, for example, typically display developmental plasticity by shortening time to metamorphosis and/or reducing size at metamorphosis when risk of predation is high (e.g., Werner and Anholt 1996). The mosquito *Ochlerotatus triseriatus* metamorphoses at a smaller size in the presence of a predator (Hechtel and Juliano 1997).

Predators can also indirectly influence community structure by causing a trophic cascade resulting in greater mass of the basal trophic level in tritrophic systems. This phenomenon, common in lake and pond systems (Leibold 1989, Carpenter and Kitchell 1993, Morin 1995), though varying greatly in strength (Brett and Goldman 1997, McCann et al. 1998), may have important consequences for mosquito success: predators in tritrophic pool ecosystems may indirectly benefit mosquitoes by providing more algal mass (i.e., food resources).

Temporary pools in deserts, being small simple systems with relatively low species diversity (e.g., Dimentman and Margalit 1981, Ward and Blaustein 1994), represent a convenient system to test the effects of predators and controphic species on mosquito populations. In the Negev and Dead Sea region deserts, pools not subject to the scouring effect of flash floods are often dominated by Daphnia species reaching densities of 1000s/L (G. Stav, personal observation). Daphnia are filter feeders. Heterocypris species (Ostracoda) can also become quite abundant (G. Stav, personal observation). Culiseta longiareolata Macquart and Culex pipiens L. are two common mosquitoes in these desert pools (Dimentman and Margalit 1981, Ward and Blaustein 1994). Filter-feeding mosquitoes such as C. pipiens could potentially compete with Daphnia for phytoplankton, bacterioplankton, microzooplankton, and particulate organic matter, while periphyton-grazing mosquitoes such as C. longiareolata may potentially compete with *Heterocypris*. As the rain pool season progresses, predators such as backswimmers and odonates can become abundant and can potentially have a large impact on mosquitoes. The role of backswimmers has been well studied (e.g., Blaustein et al. 1995, Blaustein 1998, Eitam et al. 2002), but considerably less is known of the impacts of odonates in this system (Stav et al. 2000). Here, we determine experimentally, in outdoor artificial pools, individual and interactive effects of an odonate predator (Anax imperator) and controphic species of mosquito larvae (primarily Daphnia magna), on survival, time to and size at metamorphosis (pupation), as well as sex ratio of emerging adults of two mosquito species (C. pipiens and C. longiareolata).

METHODS

We established 20 plastic pools on the roof of the three-story Biology Department building, Ben-Gurion University (Beer-Sheva, Israel; 31°15′ N, 34°48′ E). Pools (34 \times 59 cm on bottom, 25 cm in height, and 37×62 cm at water surface) were placed 0.5 m apart in a 4×5 grid. The size of these pools is well within the range of natural pools that contain the species of interest (Ward and Blaustein 1994, Blaustein and Margalit 1995). On 2 January 1995, we filled the pools to a depth of 20 cm (= 53 L) with tap water. Water levels were maintained by natural rains and distilled water. For a nutrient source, we added 5 cm³ of ground food (30% Cat Lee cat food [no longer available]: 50% Koffolk mouse and rat chow [Koffolk, Tel Aviv, Israel]: 10% yeast: 10% Wardley Tropical fish flakes) on 9 January and then 2 cm³ seven additional times weekly. On 13 February, to create a natural substrate, we added 1 L of loess soil collected at the water's edge of Zin Lake (a newly flooded body of water near the Dead Sea) to each pool. Prior to adding the soil to each pool, it was baked for 15 min after the soil center reached 80°C, with a final temperature of at least 100°C. At a height of 2 m we placed a net that provided 90% shade over the pools in order to reduce solar radiation since many natural pools had the natural shading of canyon walls and vegetation.

We employed a two-factor crossed design: (1) presence or absence of the predator, *A. imperator*; and (2) presence or absence of herbivores/detrivores, *D. magna* and *Heterocypris* species (controphic species). Each treatment combination was replicated in five randomly selected pools. To each appropriate pool, we added 100 *D. magna* on 9 January plus an additional 20 *D. magna* and 20 *Heterocypris* on 13 February.

On 7 March, we added two A. imperator nymphs (length = 2.01 ± 0.07 cm [mean ± 1 se]) to each appropriate pool. The introduction of A. imperator after the crustaceans simulates the natural phenology in temporary pools. Also on 7 March, we also added to all pools, 40 first instar C. pipiens larvae, collected as egg rafts in nearby natural pools. Once pupation began, we counted and removed pupae every day until no C. pipiens immatures remained (7 April). Early in the experiment, uncharacteristic larval mortality (100% or nearly 100%) occurred simultaneously in three adjacent pools of the three different predator/controphic species treatments. We suspected, but could not confirm, that

these pools were exposed to a mosquito-specific bacterial larvicide (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*) that had been used in the immediate area (other species did not appear affected). At the time that this occurred, we decided to treat these pools as outliers and delete them from analysis. In addition, we also deleted the nearest control pool (which did not deviate from other control pools) to maintain a balanced design.

During the *C. pipiens* experiment, water temperatures ranged from 6°C to 30°C. We measured the thoracic length (end of wing pad to most distal edge) of each pupa. We then allowed pupae to emerge in the laboratory to determine gender of the adults. These data allowed us to assess the treatment effects on survival to pupal stage, size at pupation, rate of development, and sex ratio.

Four weeks after the termination of the C. pipiens experiment (5 May), we added 40 first instar C. longiareolata larvae (arising from egg rafts collected in nearby pools) to each pool. A phenology of C. pipiens followed by C. longiareolata was typically found in the Dead Sea region though there is high temporal overlap (Silberbush 2004). Given that the mosquito larval densities are lower than we might expect to see an intraspecific density-dependent effect (Blaustein and Margalit 1996), and that we waited approximately one month between the end of the C. pipiens and the beginning of the C. longiareolata experiments, we assume that there were no priority effects of the first mosquito on the second. The protocol for C. longiareolata was the same as for C. pipiens except that we counted and collected pupae every other day rather than every day. During the C. longiareolata experiment, water temperatures ranged from 14°C to 28°C.

Throughout the entire experiment, we removed mosquito egg rafts oviposited by wild mosquitoes to prevent the introduction of wild mosquito larvae. Oviposition data by wild mosquitoes are presented elsewhere (Stav et al. 1999).

On 3 May and 6 June, we surveyed for and measured the size of the dragonfly nymphs (total length). On 3 May, we found a missing or dead nymph in three pools and replaced them with live nymphs of similar sizes. On 7 April, 3 May, and 30 May, we sampled for controphic species with a 10.5×15.5 cm net (triangular shaped 0.11 mm^2 openings) sweeping a 6-L volume in each pool. On 3 May, we observed some *D. magna* in non controphic species pools, though in considerably lower numbers than in controphic species pools. After the *C. pipiens* experiment, we periodically swept all pools to remove *D. magna* from non-*D. magna* pools. *Daphnia magna* were removed from sweep contents in the non controphic species pools and then sweep contents were returned.

To measure periphyton, we used standard glass microscope slides (26×76 mm) vertically suspended at the center of the pools ~ 2 cm below the water surface. For the *C. pipiens* trial, we suspended one slide per

Table 1.	Repeated-measures	ANOVA	results	for	ln(x +	1)	of	the	phytoplankton	and	pe-
riphyton	mass.										•

		Peri	phyton	Phytoplankton	
Source of variation	df	F	P	F	P
Controphic spp. (C)	1	16.93	< 0.001	2.33	0.147
Predator (P)	1	10.47	0.005	0.001	0.979
$C \times P$	1	0.10	0.759	0.001	0.977
Subject within groups	16				
Time (T)	1	15.38	0.001	0.12	0.734
$C \times T$	1	4.89	0.042	0.07	0.797
$P \times T$	1	4.15	0.059	0.27	0.613
$C \times P \times T$	1	0.63	0.441	0.74	0.401
$T \times subject$ within groups	16				

pool on 20 March and collected them on 30 April. For the *C. longiareolata* trial, we suspended slides on 5 May and collected them on 29 May. We air dried slides in the laboratory for 48 h at 25°C. The material was then removed with a razor blade and weighed. On 30 April and again on 30 May, we measured the phytoplankton mass of a 50-mL water sample taken from each pool center at mid depth. Samples were filtered

through Whatman filter paper (qualitative 1) and dried at 80°C for 2 min before weighing.

Because many mosquito species show sexual dimorphism in size at, and time to, metamorphosis, we analyzed these variables separately for each sex. Data were analyzed as a two-way (controphic species and predator) analysis of variance (ANOVA). In the case of repeated measures over time, we used univariate

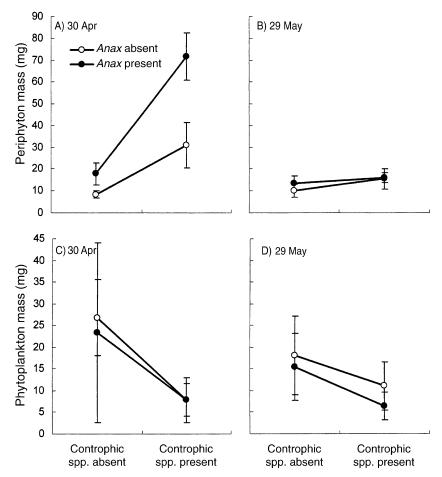


Fig. 1. The effects of controphic species and Anax imperator on mass (mean \pm 1 sE) of phytoplankton and periphyton at the end of the Culex pipiens experiment (30 April 1995) and at the end of the Culiseta longiareolata experiment (29 May). For all panels, open circles are with Anax absent; filled circles are with Anax present.

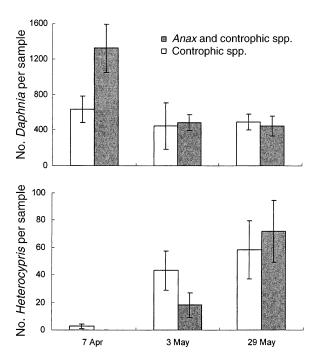


FIG. 2. Effects of *Anax imperator* on *Daphnia magna* (top) and *Heterocypris* sp. (bottom) densities per 6-L sample (mean ± 1 sE). Samples were taken on three dates: after the *Culex* period (7 April 1995), before *Culiseta longiareolata* larvae were added (3 May), and after the *Culiseta* period (29 May).

repeated-measures ANOVAs. Data were natural-log transformed (y + 1), when there were any zero values) prior to analysis when necessary to meet assumptions of ANOVA, which was the case for all analyses except for final survival to pupation for both species and for sex ratio, which was angularly transformed. During the C. longiareolata experiment, survival in one of the predator plus controphic species pools was uncharacteristically high (95% vs. a mean of 2% in the other four replicates). We classified this pool as an outlier for the C. longiareolata experiment based on both biological and statistical criteria. This lack of predation by A. imperator on C. longiareolata larvae is not only uncharacteristic of other replicates of this study (statistically significant outlier based on Grubb's test, P < 0.05 [Sokal and Rohlf 1995]), but also uncharacteristic of other studies (Stav et al. 2000; L. Blaustein, unpublished data). Moreover, in the 6 June survey (one week after the termination of the *C. longiareolata* experiment), we found both of the *A. imperator* larvae missing from this pool.

RESULTS

Algae

Anax imperator caused an increase in periphyton mass (P=0.005; Table 1, Fig. 1a, b). This effect may have diminished in the second time period as suggested by the nearly significant predator \times time interaction (P=0.059). Controphic species also caused a significant increase in periphyton mass (P<0.001; Table 1, Fig. 1a, b). The effect of controphic species on periphyton diminished during the second sampling period as indicated by the significant controphic species \times time interaction (P=0.042).

No statistically significant treatment effects were demonstrated on phytoplankton mass (Table 1, Fig. 1c, d), though mass tended to be higher in the absence of controphic species (grand mean = 21.44 mg) than in its presence (grand mean = 10.47 mg, P = 0.147).

Controphic species and Anax imperator

The predator did not reduce crustacean densities (Fig. 2, Table 2). *Anax imperator* averaged 2.01 ± 0.07 cm (mean ± 1 SE) total length when introduced on 7 March, 3.57 ± 0.06 cm on 3 May, and 3.80 ± 0.04 cm on 6 June. *Anax imperator* did not grow faster in the presence of the crustaceans ($F_{1.8} = 0.55$, P = 0.480).

Culex pipiens experiment

The number of *C. pipiens* surviving to the pupal stage was significantly reduced (32.4%) by *A. imperator* ($F_{1,12} = 5.84$, P = 0.033), but was not significantly affected by controphic species ($F_{1,12} = 0.18$, P = 0.680; Fig. 3). Although *C. pipiens* tended to have higher survivorship in the presence of *A. imperator* plus controphic species pools compared to *A. Imperator* alone, the predator \times controphic species interaction was not statistically significant ($F_{1,12} = 2.28$, P = 0.157).

Because males pupated earlier than females, ANO-VAs that considered mean time to pupation were considered separately for each sex. Both *C. pipiens* males $(F_{1,12} = 23.81, P < 0.001)$ and females $(F_{1,12} = 11.33, P_{1,12} = 11.33)$

Table 2. Repeated-measures ANOVA results for ln(x + 1) of the controphic species densities in the presence and absence of *Anax imperator*.

		Daphni	a magna	Heterocypris sp.		
Source of variation	df	F	P	F	P	
Anax	1	2.24	0.173	0.21	0.979	
Subject within groups	8					
Time	2	3.18	0.069	20.72	< 0.001	
$Anax \times time$	2	0.95	0.408	2.24	0.139	
Time × subject within groups	16					

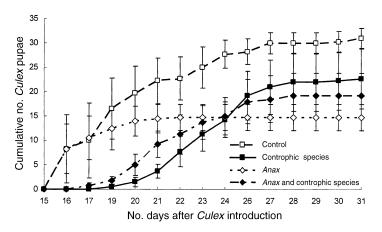


FIG. 3. The effects of the different treatments on cumulative survival to pupation of *Culex pipiens*. Error bars represent ± 1 SE.

P=0.006) took longer to develop in the presence of controphic species (Fig. 4). Time to pupation also tended to be shorter in the presence of predators for both males ($F_{1,12}=3.93$, P=0.071) and females ($F_{1,12}=2.85$, P=0.117), though these differences were not statistically significant. The controphic species × predator interaction was not statistically significant for either sex ($P\gg0.05$).

The repeated-measures ANOVA on cumulative number of C. pipiens pupae through time combines the effects of survival and pupation rate. This analysis showed a strong effect of controphic species (P = 0.015; Table 3, Fig. 3). The highly significant controphic species \times time interaction (P < 0.001) indicates that C. pipiens developed more slowly in the presence of controphic species, but by the end of the experiment controphic species did not affect the final number successfully pupating. The significant predator \times time interaction (P = 0.04) indicates that pupation rate was high early in the experiment, but mortality was high for those that did not pupate early.

Culex pipiens male pupae were considerably smaller than female pupae (Fig. 5a). Controphic species caused a significant reduction in pupal size of C. pipiens males $(F_{1.12} = 6.22, P = 0.028)$ and females $(F_{1.12} = 10.90,$ P = 0.006; Fig. 5a). Anax imperator did not affect pupal size of either sex, nor was there a predator X controphic species interaction for either sex $(P \gg 0.05)$ in all cases). However, both controphic species ($F_{1,12}$ = 10.93, P = 0.006) and A. imperator ($F_{1,12} = 6.90$, P = 0.022) reduced the size differential between sexes (the male:female size ratio; Fig. 5b). These effects were additive (controphic species \times predator: $F_{1,12} = 0.03$, P = 0.871). The sex ratio of *C. pipiens* individuals reaching the pupal stage was not affected by either controphic species ($F_{1,12} = 0.01$, P = 0.910) or A. imperator $(F_{1.12} = 3.00, P = 0.109)$.

Culiseta longiareolata experiment

The number of *C. longiareolata* surviving to the pupal stage was significantly reduced both by *A. imperator* (78%; $F_{1.15} = 129.79$, P < 0.001) and by con-

trophic species (21.9%; $F_{1,15} = 7.54$, P = 0.015; Fig. 6). The combined effects of predator and controphic species did not deviate from additive (predator \times controphic species interaction: $F_{1,15} = 0.37$, P = 0.554).

Like *C. pipiens*, *C. longiareolata* males developed more quickly than females, and hence ANOVAs that considered mean time to pupation for each pool were considered separately for each sex. *Culiseta longiareolata* males ($F_{1,14} = 5.00$, P = 0.042), but not females ($F_{1,13} = 0.83$, P = 0.379), developed more slowly in the presence of *A. imperator* based on mean time to pupation (Fig. 7). Controphic species did not significantly affect mean time to pupation in either sex (males: $F_{1,14} = 1.68$, P = 0.216; females: $F_{1,13} = 2.32$, P = 0.151).

The repeated-measures ANOVA on cumulative number of pupae through time, which combines the effects on survival and pupation rate, showed that controphic species, and particularly *A. imperator*, had negative effects (Table 4, Fig. 6).

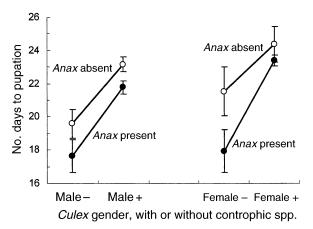


Fig. 4. The effects of the different treatments on time to metamorphosis (mean \pm 1 sE) for *Culex pipiens*. In the x-axis labels, plus and minus symbols represent presence or absence of controphic species, respectively, for male vs. female *Culex*.

Source of variation	df	MS	F	P
Controphic spp. (C)	1	31.89	8.11	0.015
Predator (P)	1	0.02	0.004	0.951
$C \times P$	1	3.22	0.82	0.383
Subject within groups	12	3.93		
Time (T)	13	11.18	49.73	< 0.001
$C \times T$	13	1.77	7.89	< 0.001
$P \times T$	13	0.41	1.83	0.042
$C \times P \times T$	13	0.07	0.31	0.990
T × subject within groups	156	0.23		

Table 3. Repeated-measures ANOVA results for the cumulative ln(x + 1) of the *Culex pipiens* pupae in response to controphic species and/or *Anax imperator*.

Anax imperator caused a large reduction in *C. lon-giareolata* pupal size for both males ($F_{1,14} = 13.93$, P = 0.002) and females ($F_{1,13} = 23.59$, P < 0.001; Fig. 8). Controphic species did not influence size (males: $F_{1,14} = 0.27$, P = 0.610; females: $F_{1,13} = 0.46$, P = 0.508). Neither controphic species nor predator affected either the size ratio between the sexes or the sex ratios of emerging adults ($P \gg 0.05$ in all cases).

DISCUSSION

Understanding how communities are organized may lend considerable insight into understanding the various and complex ways in which certain biotic components of communities influence mosquito populations. This, in turn, can help predict under what circumstances (i.e., specific community structures) a natural or introduced predator will successfully reduce mosquito populations. Here we assessed the importance of effects of a predator and controphic species on mosquito populations. Our results indicate that both of these components are important in influencing mosquito populations and that the effects on a particular mosquito species cannot be generalized across all mosquito species.

Controphic species caused *C. pipiens* larvae to develop more slowly and to pupate at a smaller size.

Reduced size at metamorphosis may have large negative consequences for mosquito fitness (e.g., Lounibos et al.1993, Benjamin and Bradshaw 1994). Slower development rates should also decrease seasonal population growth. Among the controphic species, D. magna occurred in high densities and Heterocypris was found in only low densities during the C. pipiens experiment. Daphnia magna is competitively superior to many cladocerans species (e.g., Gliwicz 1990, Bengtsson 1993). Because both C. pipiens and D. magna are primarily filter feeders, these negative impacts of D. magna are most likely to be due to competition, presumably primarily exploitative. One common food source should be phytoplankton. Although the measured reduction of phytoplankton in the presence of controphic species was about two-thirds, the effect was not statistically significant. Daphnia species have reduced phytoplankton mass in a variety of lake and pond studies (e.g., Sarnelle 1992, Geist et al. 1993, Leibold and Wilbur 1993, Arner et al. 1998). Furthermore, the important limiting resource could have been edible, and not total, phytoplankton or some other microplankton or detritus that we did not measure.

This is the first experiment, to our knowledge, to show that *Culex* larvae compete with zooplankton and supports the circumstantial evidence of zooplankton

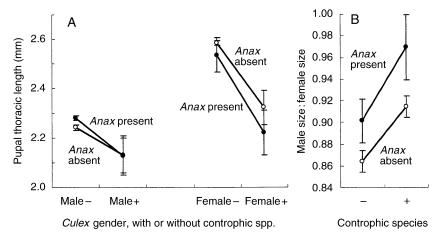


FIG. 5. The effects of controphic species and *Anax imperator* on (A) pupal size (thoracic length) of *Culex pipiens* and (B) the male: female thoracic length ratio. The plus and minus symbols in the x-axis labels represent presence or absence of controphic species, respectively. Error bars represent ± 1 SE.

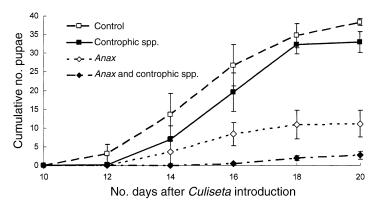


FIG. 6. Treatment effects on cumulative number of *Culiseta longiareolata* pupae (mean ± 1 sF).

competing with *Culex* larvae in rice fields (Blaustein and Karban 1990). Considering that *Daphnia* and other filter-feeding crustaceans are often orders of magnitude greater in abundance than mosquito larvae (e.g., Blaustein 1992), the effects of such controphic species in affecting population dynamics of some mosquito species may be very important.

Culiseta longiareolata larvae were also negatively influenced by the controphic species. Although C. longiareolata larvae and D. magna (the numerically dominant controphic species in our experiment) share the same trophic level, they may have little overlap in food; C. longiareolata has been reported to be primarily a periphyton grazer (van Pletsen and van der Linde 1981) while D. magna is a filter feeder. In fact, controphic species caused an increase in periphyton, possibly by reducing phytoplankton (potential competitors for sunlight and nutrients [Hansson 1992, Axler and Reuter 1996]) via grazing and re-releasing nutrients tied up in phytoplankton and animals to periphyton. One possible explanation is that C. longiareolata filter feeds more than is thought. A second possibility is that D. magna influence C. longiareolata via interference competition; we observed high densities of D. magna to result in frequent contacts with C. longiareolata causing the larvae to move. Lastly, Heterocypris sp., which grazes largely on periphyton (Pennak 1978), may have caused the negative effect. Bufo viridis tadpoles, which also feed largely on periphyton, have been shown to be strong competitors with C. longiareolata larvae in artificial pool experiments (Blaustein and Margalit 1994a, 1996).

Anax imperator had a large negative impact on C. longiareolata densities but a considerably smaller effect on C. pipiens densities. We cannot quantitatively compare the differences in the predation on the two mosquito species because the mosquitoes were introduced at different times with different conditions. For example, A. imperator nymphs were larger during the C. longiareolata experiment, and larger predators would be expected to have higher predation rates. However, this differential predation has also been observed in the laboratory: at depths as shallow as 6 cm and

with equal ratios of Culex perixiguus and C. longiareolata larvae, A. imperator fed almost exclusively on C. longiareolata (L. Blaustein, unpublished data). This is likely to be due largely to differences in behavior and body size between the two species. We have found (unpublished data) that C. longiareolata, compared to *C. pipiens*: (1) are more active, which attracts odonate larvae (Corbet 1980); (2) spend more time at the bottom where A. imperator are primarily found; and (3) are larger (Blaustein and Margalit 1994b) and A. imperator are size-selective predators preferring larger prey within the size range of mosquito larvae. Experimental evidence suggests that C. longiareolata females can detect A. imperator nymphs and avoid ovipositing in pools containing this predator (Stav et al. 1999). This oviposition response is not surprising in light of the heavy predation incurred by C. longiareo-

Anax imperator reduced development time in surviving males and pupal size in both sexes of *C. lon-giareolata*. Considerable work has shown that anuran tadpoles adjust development in response to risk of pre-

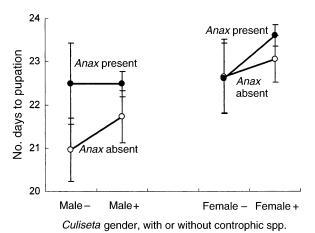


FIG. 7. The effects of controphic species and *Anax imperator* on *Culiseta longiareolata* time to metamorphosis (mean \pm 1 sE). The plus and minus symbols in the *x*-axis labels represent presence or absence of controphic species, respectively.

Source of variation	df	MS	F	P
Controphic spp. (C)	1	664.68	4.52	0.051
Predator (P)	1	6732.17	45.74	< 0.001
$C \times P$	1	5.31	0.04	0.852
Subject within groups	15	147.19		
Time (T)	4	1472.63	59.39	< 0.001
$C \times T$	4	26.91	1.09	0.372
$P \times T$	4	641.96	25.89	< 0.001
$C \times P \times T$	4	22.28	0.90	0.471
T × subject within groups	60	24.80		

Table 4. Repeated-measures ANOVA results for cumulative number of *Culiseta longiareo-lata* pupae in the different treatments.

dation, including risk from congeneric *Anax* species (e.g., Skelly and Werner 1990, Werner and Anholt 1996, Trembath and Anholt 2001), though considerably less work has considered whether aquatic insect larvae possess such plasticity. As in the present study, Hechtel and Juliano (1997) found that the predator *Toxorhynchites* caused a decrease in pupal size of the mosquito *Aedes triseriatus*. Unlike this study, *Toxorhynchites* caused an increased time to pupation. The reduction in development time of *C. longiareolata* may not be due to developmental plasticity in response to risk of predation but rather those individuals taking longer to develop had an increased chance of being consumed.

Trophic cascades driven by backswimmers (Blaustein et al. 1995, Arner et al. 1998) and urodeles (Morin 1995, Blaustein et al. 1996) have been demonstrated in artificial pools. Predators may thus have indirect positive effects on mosquito larvae by increasing their food resource. *Anax imperator* did not cause a trophic cascade on phytoplankton (i.e., increased phytoplankton mass), though this might be explained by the fact that *A. imperator* did not reduce *D. magna*, the numerically dominant phytoplanktivore in the experimental community. *Anax imperator* did cause a trophic cascade on periphyton. The mechanism for this effect is unclear. The predator did not reduce densities of the

most abundant periphyton grazer (*Heterocypris*) and we used only low densities of the periphyton grazers, *C. longiareolata* larvae, which were present during only a small fraction of the entire study. Thus the most conventional mechanism of the predator reducing periphyton grazing by reducing grazer densities cannot explain the result. But there are at least two other potential mechanisms to bring about a trophic cascade. One is a behavioral trophic cascade (e.g., Schmitz and Suttle 1997) where *Heterocypris* would feed less in response to the predator. A second is nutrient regeneration by the predator (e.g., Peacor 2002). Our experimental design cannot differentiate between these.

How did *A. imperator* and the controphic species interact to affect mosquitoes? In the presence of controphic species, *A. imperator* did not grow faster. Thus, we should not expect, and did not find, apparent competition via a developmental response in *A. imperator* (i.e., controphic species presence did not cause an increase in consumption of mosquito larvae by *A. imperator*). Laboratory trials (G. Stav, *unpublished data*) show that *A. imperator* does not have a preference when offered *C. pipiens* and *D. magna*, indicating that the presence of *D. magna* should decrease predation intensity on *C. pipiens* larvae and thus increase survival. However, the fact that the controphic species reduces

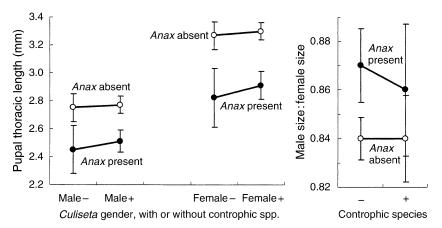


Fig. 8. The effects of controphic species and *Anax imperator* on (A) pupal size (thoracic length) and (B) the male: female thoracic length ratio of *Culiseta longiareolata*. The plus and minus symbols in the x-axis labels represent presence or absence of controphic species, respectively. Error bars represent ± 1 SE.

development rate (i.e., exposes *C. pipiens* to *A. imperator* predation for a longer period of time) should increase predation intensity. The absence of a statistically significant *A. imperator* × controphic species interaction effect indicated that neither the negative competitive effect nor the positive alternative prey effect outweighs the other. Though the interaction was not statistically significant, the result was in the direction of the alternative prey effect being more important than the competitive effect.

Laboratory predation trials (G. Stav, unpublished data) showed that A. imperator strongly preferred C. longiareolata fourth instar larvae over adult D. magna (e.g., at equal ratios, $72.9 \pm 13.8\%$ of the prey selected were C. longiareolata larvae). This laboratory study also showed no evidence of switching to the more abundant prey species. Given the strong preference for C. longiareolata larvae, it was not surprising that controphic species, by serving as alternative prey, did not influence the strong effect of predation. The negative effects of controphic species and predation tended to be additive.

These results indicate that A. imperator is an important predator of mosquitoes, particularly C. longiareolata. More importantly, this study demonstrates that species sharing the same trophic level as mosquitoes may strongly influence mosquito populations—either alone or interacting with predators. Very little work has thus far assessed the importance of these controphic species in affecting mosquito population dynamics. Our results indicate that their influence needs to be heavily considered in trying to understand the high among-site variability of mosquito abundance and the among-site variability in the success of predators to control mosquitoes.

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