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Feeding capacity and rearing challenges of *Toxorhynchites* sp. in semi-controlled environments

Yariely Cabrera, Perla A Amador, María J Juárez, Victor Cruz, Ana Clariza Samayoa Castillo¹



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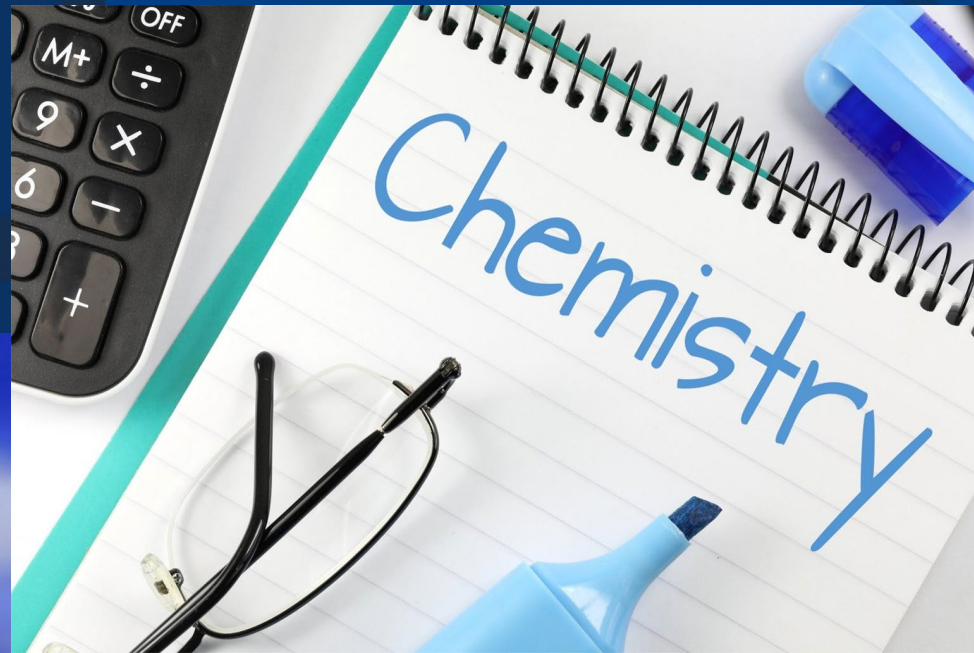
How everything start?



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Water



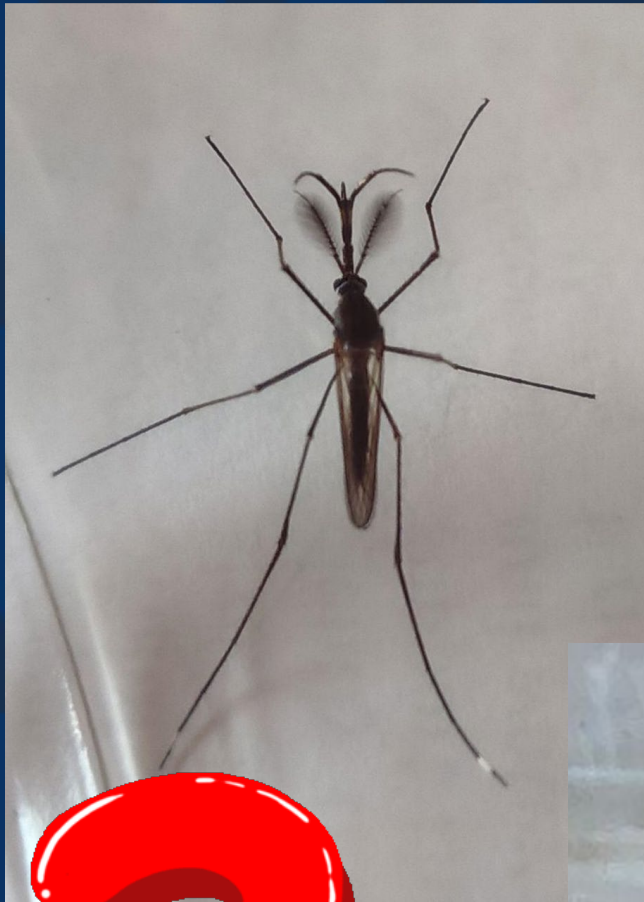


Species of the
Toxorhynchites
(Diptera: Culicidae)
genus have been
used as biological
control agents to
reduce mosquito
larval populations.





Toxorhynchites theobaldi
Toxorhynchites moctezuma
Toxorhynchites rutilus





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Our objective was to establish a *Toxorhynchites* colony under semi-controlled environmental conditions and to evaluate their potential as biological control agents.





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Toxorhynchites sp. eggs were collected from discarded tires used as larvitrap and individually placed in 12 oz cups. (64 ind.)





After five days, larvae were fed daily with different developmental stages of mosquito larvae, and the number of larvae consumed was recorded.





Adults were maintained in modified cages and fed with a sugar–water solution until death.

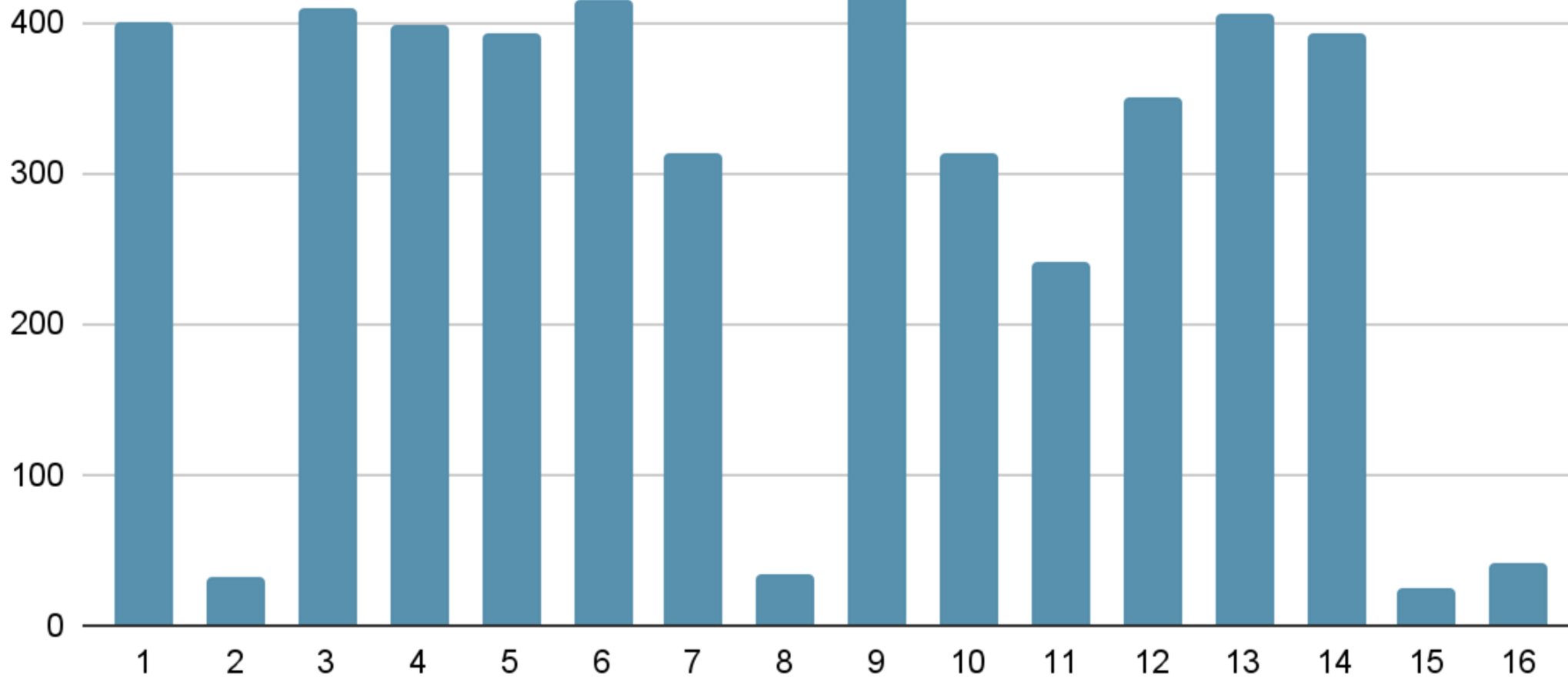


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Our results showed that *Toxorhynchites* sp. larvae can consume up to 4,585 mosquito larvae during their development



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However, adults may require larger cages, as individuals died without laying eggs. These findings suggest that further research is needed to develop methods that allow successful mating and oviposition.

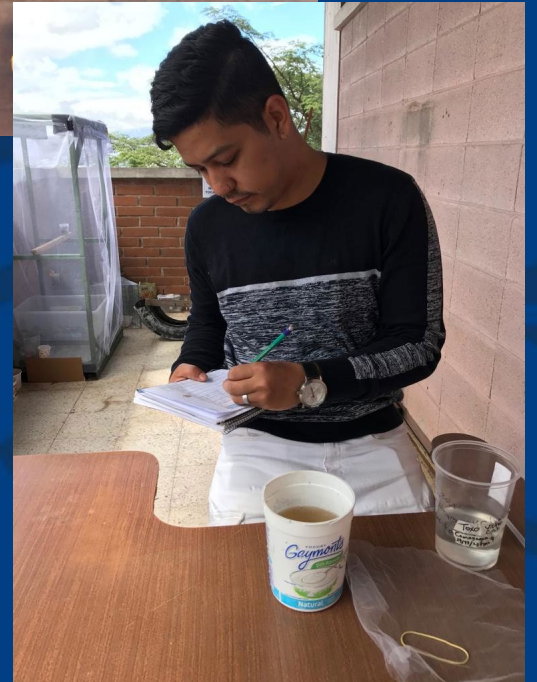
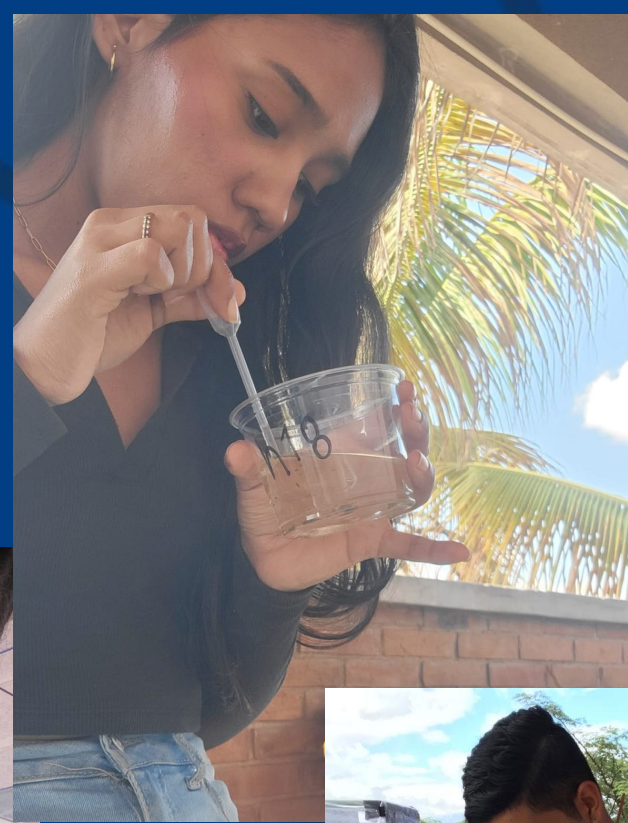




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**KEEP
CALM
AND
CARRY
ON**





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Thank you!

