

5th semester minor economic zoology

Insects of medicinal importance

Vector	Medical importance	Control
Pediculus humanus corporis (body louse)	Causes pediculosis corporis with itching and dermatitis. Vector of epidemic typhus (<i>Rickettsia prowazekii</i>), trench fever (<i>Bartonella quintana</i>) and louse-borne relapsing fever (<i>Borrelia recurrentis</i>).	Regular bathing and personal hygiene; frequent washing of clothes and bedding in hot water/heat treatment; avoid sharing infested clothing; appropriate pediculicides where indicated; improve sanitation and reduce overcrowding.
Anopheles mosquito	Most importantly transmits human malaria caused by <i>Plasmodium</i> spp. Some species can also transmit lymphatic filariasis in certain regions.	Eliminate stagnant-water breeding sites; use insecticide-treated bed nets (ITNs/LLINs) ; indoor residual spraying; larval-source management where appropriate; repellents, screens and protective

		clothing.
Culex mosquito	Important vector of lymphatic filariasis , especially <i>Wuchereria bancrofti</i> . Some species transmit Japanese encephalitis , West Nile virus , and other arboviruses.	Prevent accumulation of polluted/stagnant water; improve drainage and sanitation; cover water containers; larval control; insecticide-treated nets, repellents and indoor spraying where recommended.
Aedes mosquito	<i>Aedes aegypti</i> and <i>A. albopictus</i> transmit dengue, chikungunya and Zika ; <i>Ae. aegypti</i> is also an important vector of yellow fever . Mainly a day-biting mosquito .	Remove water from containers, tyres, flower pots and coolers; cover stored water; weekly emptying/scrubbing of containers; larvicides where appropriate; repellents, full-sleeved clothing and window/door screens.
Xenopsylla cheopis (oriental rat	Principal flea vector of plague , caused by	Control fleas and rodents; flea control

flea)

Yersinia pestis. Also transmits **murine/endemic typhus** caused by *Rickettsia typhi*.

should accompany or precede intensive rodent control to prevent infected fleas from seeking human hosts; improve waste disposal, food storage and environmental sanitation; use appropriate insecticides when required.