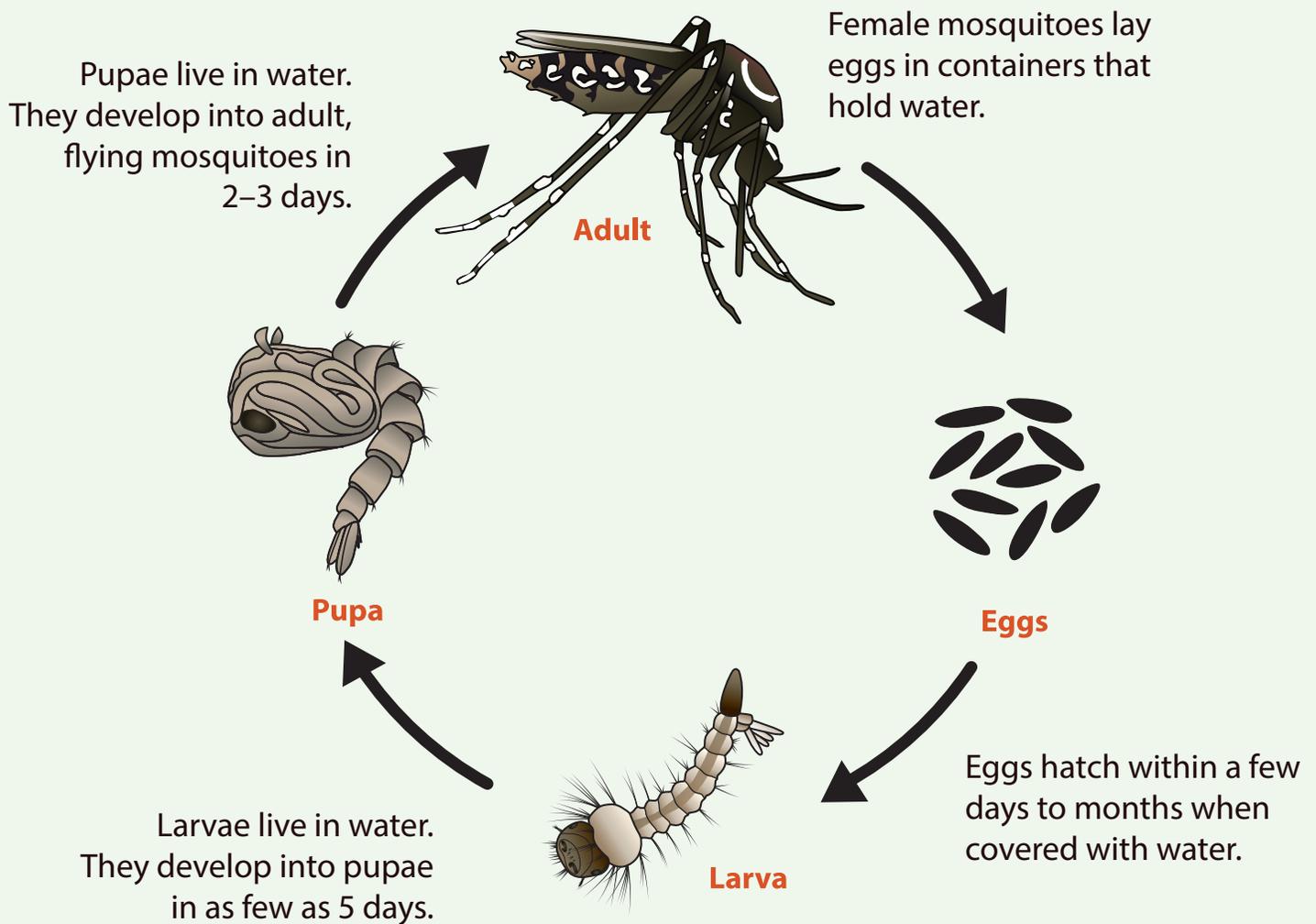


# Mosquito Life Cycle



## *Aedes aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus*

It takes about 7–10 days for an egg to develop into an adult mosquito.



U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

## Life stages of *Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* mosquitoes

### Eggs

- Adult, female mosquitoes lay eggs on the inner walls of containers with water above the waterline.
- Eggs stick to container walls like glue. They can survive drying out for up to 8 months. Mosquito eggs can even survive a winter in the southern United States.
- Mosquitoes only need a small amount of water to lay eggs. Bowls, cups, fountains, tires, barrels, vases, and any other container storing water make a great “nursery.”

### Larva

- Larvae live in the water. They hatch from mosquito eggs. This happens when water (from rain or a sprinkler) covers the eggs.
- Larvae can be seen in the water. They are very active and are often called “wigglers.”

### Pupa

- Pupae live in the water. An adult mosquito emerges from the pupa and flies away.

### Adult

- Adult female mosquitoes bite people and animals. Mosquitoes need blood to produce eggs.
- After feeding, female mosquitoes look for water sources to lay eggs.
- *Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* don't fly long distances. In its lifetime, a mosquito will only fly within a few blocks.
- *Ae. aegypti* mosquitoes prefer to live near and bite people.
- Because *Ae. albopictus* bite people and animals, they can live in or near homes.
- Mosquitoes live indoors and outdoors.

### For more information on diseases spread by mosquitoes:

- [cdc.gov/chikungunya](https://www.cdc.gov/chikungunya)
- [cdc.gov/dengue](https://www.cdc.gov/dengue)
- [cdc.gov/zika](https://www.cdc.gov/zika)



Eggs look like black dirt.



Larvae in the water.



Pupae in the water.



An adult mosquito emerges from a pupae.



An adult mosquito bites a person.