

GENETICS

AN IRREVERSIBLE EXPERIMENT

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Transgenic *Aedes aegypti* Mosquitoes Transfer Genes into a Natural Population. [Scientific Reports volume 9, Article number: 13047 \(2019\)](#).

In an attempt to control the mosquito-borne diseases yellow fever, dengue, chikungunya, and Zika fevers, a strain of transgenically modified *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes containing a dominant lethal gene has been developed by a commercial company, Oxitec Ltd. Evidently, rare viable hybrid offspring between the release strain and the Jacobina population are sufficiently robust to be able to reproduce in nature. The release strain was developed using a strain originally from Cuba, then outcrossed to a Mexican population. Thus, Jacobina Ae. aegypti are now a mix of three populations. It is unclear how this may affect disease transmission or affect other efforts to control these dangerous vectors.

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