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Full Length Research Paper

Biology of *Anopheles gambiae* and insecticide resistance: Entomological study for a large scale of indoor residual spraying in South East Benin

G. G. Padonou^{1,2*}, M. Sezonlin¹, G. L. Gbedjissi¹, I. Ayi³, R. Azondekon², A. Djenontin^{1,2}, S. Bio-Bangana², O. Oussou², A. Yadouleton², D. Boakye³ and M. Akogbeto^{1,2}

¹Faculte des Sciences et Techniques de l'Universite d'Abomey Calavi, Benin.

²Centre de Recherche Entomologique de Cotonou (CREC), Cotonou, Benin.

³Parasitology Department, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra, Ghana.

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Indoor residual spraying (IRS) has been proposed by the National Malaria Control Programme of Benin in the districts of Adjohoun, Dangbo, Misserete and Seme. Up to date entomological data are unavailable in these districts. To be effective, this measure must be based on the knowledge of biology of the malaria vectors. To achieve this aim, vector collections were made in the study area. A total of 49,059 Culicidae were captured. *Anopheles gambiae* s.s accounted for 20.91% while *Anopheles funestus* accounted for only 0.007%. *An. gambiae* s.s were molecular form M, resistant to DDT and permethrin, but susceptible to deltamethrin (mortality 100%) and bendiocarb (mortality 100%). Endophilic, blood feeding and endophagic rates were respectively estimated to be 65.74%, 53.23 and 70.18%. There was no seasonal variation of longevity, but the entomological inoculation rate ranged from 0 to 0.73 infective bites/ person / night according to localities and seasons. This study confirms a high spatial heterogeneity in mosquito distribution and shows that *An. gambiae* s.s is highly endophagic and endophilic (feed and rest indoor) in south east Benin. While the vector remains susceptible to deltamethrin, high levels of *kdr* suggest that the use of pyrethrinoid for IRS may be at risk.

Key words: *Anopheles gambiae*, endophily, blood feeding, parturity, entomological inoculation rate, resistance, IRS, Benin.

INTRODUCTION

The number of deaths attributed to malaria in 2008 was estimated to 863,000 of which 89% were in the African regions (WHO, 2009). Efforts, over several years, to control malaria, have given disappointing results. A major reason for failure is the resistance of the parasite, *Plasmodium falciparum*, to drugs and of the vector, *Anopheles gambiae* to pyrethroids used on insecticide-treated (mosquito) nets (ITNs). Since Ivory Coast (Elissa et al., 1993), vector resistance to pyrethroids has been

reported in Kenya, East Africa (Vulule et al., 1994), Burkina (Chandre et al., 1999), South Africa (Hargreaves et al., 2000) and Mali (Fanello et al., 2003). Others studies conducted in Benin (Akogbeto and Yacoubou, 1999; Corbel et al., 2007; Yadouleton et al., 2010) also indicated that *Anopheles gambiae* is highly resistant to pyrethroids and DDT.

The roll back malaria (RBM) partnership was established in 1998 to encourage African countries to take further measures against malaria. In response, Benin adopted a national strategy favoring large-scale, integrated control measures, including ITNs for the protection of vulnerable populations (children under 5 years and pregnant women) and indoor residual spraying

*Corresponding author. E-mail: pagergil@yahoo.fr. Tel: (229) 97289615/ (229) 64848595. Fax: (229) 21308860.

(IRS) with bendiocarb. In support of this decision, the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the president's malaria initiative (PMI) of the USA Government agreed to spread IRS on a regional basis. Initially, four districts (Adjohoun, Dangbo, Misserete and Seme) in the department of Oueme, southern Benin, were selected for IRS. This vector control strategy must be implemented on the basis of valid entomological research. No entomological data from study area was available. Recent data from the neighboring district (Cotonou) in relation with the biology of Culicidae fauna and *An. gambiae* go all the way back to 1950 (Huttel, 1950; Hamon, 1954) and 1992 (Akogbeto, 1992). Thus entomological data were collected, as reference for the monitoring and evaluation of the IRS effectiveness on the dynamic of *Anopheles* populations and their behaviour, on malaria transmission and the insecticide resistance required for a good implementation of the IRS. To achieve this aim field activities and laboratories research were carried out from January 2008 to July 2008. This article reports the results of this entomological study.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area

The study area is located in Republic of Benin (West Africa) and includes four districts of the Oueme region: Adjohoun, Dangbo, Misserete and Seme (Figure 1). The four districts cover an area of 977 km² and an estimated 64,799 households. There are 62,890 children aged <5 years in 174 villages (INSAE, 2004). From 2002 to 2006, Oueme was the region with the highest rates of malaria-associated mortality (MS, 2007). The region is characterized by a sub-equatorial type climate. There are two ecological zones: a plateau zone and a swampy zone. In the present study, the plateau zone is referred to as the "plateau area", and the swampy zone is called "peripheral area" (Figure 1). In the plateau area, mosquito breeding sites are created particularly during the rainy seasons. But the peripheral area is made up of marshy land converted to vegetable gardens. Land management in this vegetable growing area creates perfect breeding site for *An gambiae*, the main vector of malaria which is highly resistant to pyrethroids (Padonou, 2008). The practice of growing vegetable crops in all districts has resulted in consumption of fertilizers and insecticides. The insecticides used were DDT and pyrethroids until 1970 (Alphacypermethrin, Cypermethrin and Deltamethrin) after the ban of DDT. Because of a high density of mosquitoes in Oueme region, the use of individual and collective measures (aerosol cans, plates for electric diffusers and mosquito coils containing pyrethroids) to protect against mosquito bites is widespread (Akogbeto and Yacoubou, 1999). Houses in both areas are generally built in similar shape. These houses are made of either mud or cement with large eave gaps facilitating entry and exit of mosquitoes.

Field mosquito collection

The sampling was done in 4 villages (2 in the plateau area and 2 in the peripheral area) per district by window traps (WT), indoor and outdoor human landing catches (HLC), indoor pyrethrum spray catches (PSC), and by collection of larvae and pupae.

To estimate endophagy and entomological inoculating rate of *An.*

gambiae, mosquitoes collection by HLC were carried out during 14 surveys from January 2008 to July 2008 (6 in the dry season and 8 in the rainy season) every month for two consecutive nights per survey (8 person-night per district per survey). Teams of collectors were rotated among the collection points on different collection nights to minimize sampling bias. Ethical clearance was granted by the Ministry of Health of Benin and by Centre de Recherche Entomologique de Cotonou (CREC). Informed consent from all volunteers was obtained before their participation in the study. Malaria prevention and curative treatments were provided to all sleepers according to World Health Organization (WHO) recommended regimen on the basis of fever and detectable *P. falciparum* parasitemia.

The exophilic behaviour of mosquito population in the 4 districts was monitored by setting a total of 32 WT with 2 traps per house. Two mosquito catching sessions in each WT were organized each month from 1800 to 0630 h. After collecting exophilic mosquitoes from the WT, pyrethrum spray catches were done to collect indoor resting mosquitoes.

Larvae and pupae were collected from breeding sites of Adjohoun, Dangbo, Misserete and Seme within the peripheral area and the plateau, using standard dipping method. Larvae and pupae were reared to adults stage at Centre de Recherche Entomologique de Cotonou (CREC) insectary and subsequently used for bioassays.

Testing insecticide susceptibility

Females *An. gambiae* aged 2 to 5 days old were exposed to WHO diagnostic dosage of various insecticides according to the standard WHO testing protocol (WHO, 1998). The following insecticides were tested: deltamethrin (0.05%), permethrin (0.75%), DDT (4%) and bendiocarb (0.1%). Mosquitoes were exposed for one hour to insecticide-treated papers and monitored at different time intervals (10, 15, 20, 30, 45 and 60 min) to record the "knock-down". Mortalities were recorded after 24 h and the susceptibility status of the population was graded according to the WHO recommended protocol (WHO, 1998). All susceptibility tests were conducted in the CREC laboratory at 26 to 29°C and 74 to 82% relative humidity.

Dead and surviving mosquitoes were separately stored in individual tubes with silicagel and preserved at -20°C in the laboratory, for further molecular characterization.

Plasmodium falciparum detection and molecular analysis of mosquito samples

Anophelines were sorted and identified to species based on morphological characters using standard identification keys (Gillies, 1968). The physiological age of adult female *An. gambiae* was determined through dissection (Detinova, 1963). The head-thoraces of females from HLCs were tested for the presence of circumsporozoite protein (CSP) of *P. falciparum* using enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) (Wirtz et al., 1987). In each locality, a sub-sample of 25 to 35 *An. gambiae* of the permethrin- tested specimens were processed by PCR concomitantly for identification of species and molecular forms of *An. gambiae* (Favia et al., 2001). Detection of Leu-Phe *kdr* and *Ace-1R* mutations in the same samples were performed by PCR from genomic DNA (Martinez-Torres et al., 1998; Weill et al., 2004).

Estimation of entomological parameters

The following entomological parameters were estimated; (1) Human biting rate (HBR): the number of *An. gambiae* biting a person during

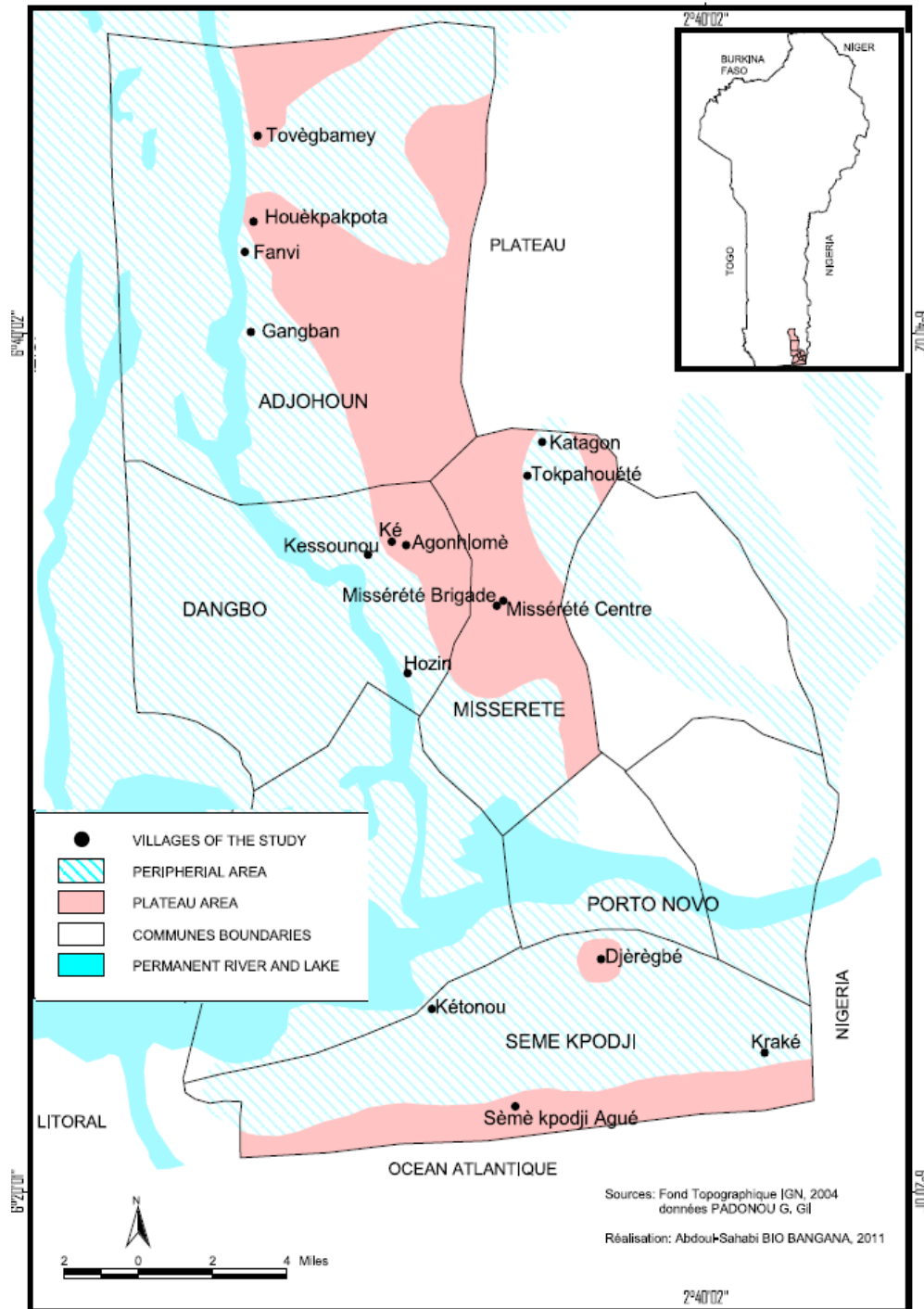


Figure 1. Map of study area.

a given time period (bites/p/t) (time being night, month or year). (2) Endophily rate: the number of *An.gambiae* at rest divided by the total number collected by PSC and the window trap converted to a percentage. (3) Blood-feeding rate: the percentage of blood fed mosquitoes collected divided by the total number collected by indoor PSC and the window trap. (4) Parous rate: the percentage of the number of *An.gambiae* having laid eggs at least once,

divided by the total of *An.gambiae* females dissected. (5) The sensitivity of *An. gambiae* insecticide was defined according to WHO protocol (WHO, 1998). (6) Sporozoite rate: a ratio of the total number of mosquitoes infected divided by the total number of *An.gambiae* dissected. (7) Entomological inoculation rate (EIR): the number of infective bites per person per night is calculated, by multiplying the number of *An.gambiae* bites per person per night by

Table 1. Diversity of mosquitoes species collected at Adjohoun, Dangbo, Misserete and Seme, during the dry (January to March 2008) and rainy (April to July 2008) seasons (2 catch session per month).

| Species | Adjohoun | | Dangbo | | Misserete | | Seme | | Total |
|-------------------------------|----------|-------|--------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Nb Ds | Nb Rs | Nb Ds | Nb Rs | Nb Ds | Nb Rs | Nb Ds | Nb Rs | |
| <i>Anopheles gambiae</i> | 124 | 1219 | 432 | 1966 | 198 | 1414 | 388 | 4518 | 10259 |
| <i>Anopheles funestus</i> | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| <i>Anopheles pharoensis</i> | 73 | 124 | 337 | 119 | 6 | 7 | 14 | 39 | 719 |
| <i>Anopheles ziemanni</i> | 0 | 0 | 9 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 18 |
| <i>Anopheles coustani</i> | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 9 |
| <i>Culex quinquefasciatus</i> | 238 | 370 | 781 | 836 | 14 | 396 | 342 | 205 | 3182 |
| <i>Culex decens</i> | 30 | 150 | 187 | 1804 | 13 | 219 | 874 | 1640 | 4917 |
| <i>Culex nebulosus</i> | 197 | 706 | 100 | 1417 | 0 | 1306 | 1178 | 537 | 5441 |
| <i>Culex thalassius</i> | 0 | 88 | 41 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 142 |
| <i>Culex fatigans</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| <i>Aedes aegypti</i> | 18 | 15 | 20 | 44 | 25 | 36 | 4 | 7 | 169 |
| <i>Aedes palpalis</i> | 1 | 15 | 0 | 16 | 3 | 108 | 0 | 0 | 143 |
| <i>Mansonia africana</i> | 7353 | 2404 | 7603 | 2815 | 1065 | 452 | 1793 | 542 | 24027 |
| <i>Mansonia uniformis</i> | 5 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 23 |
| Total | 8039 | 5095 | 9516 | 9037 | 1325 | 3948 | 4601 | 7498 | 49059 |

Nb Ds : Number in dry season ; Nb Rs: Number in rainy season.

the sporozoite rate.

Statistical analysis

Normality was tested by a Shapiro-Wilk test and we used a rank sum test, Kruskal-Wallis to compare the variables of density, endophagy and aggressivity between localities, between ecological zones and between seasons. ANOVA was used for the analysis of the means of endophily, gravidity and parturity. Comparison of the *kdr* frequency among localities was performed using Fisher's exact test with Genepop software. The significance level was set at 5%.

RESULTS

Species diversity

Four mosquito genera, comprising 14 species, were collected and identified taxonomically: 4 *Anopheles*, 5 *Culex*, 3 *Aedes* and 2 *Mansonia* (Table 1). The Culicidae fauna was present during the dry and rainy seasons and at all localities. However, its composition and size vary. Total culicidae captured was 49,059 of which 38,051 (77.56%) are *Mansonia africana*, *Culex nebulosus*, *C. quinquefasciatus* and *C. decens*. The Anophelinae included *An. gambiae* s.l, representing 20.91% of all Culicidae, *An. funestus*, representing only 0.007%, and *An. pharoensis*, *An. coustani* and *An. ziemani*, at very low percentages.

Endophilic and blood feeding rate

Endophily ranged from 60.9% at peripheral of Adjohoun

to 73.3% at Misserete. The overall comparison of different rates showed no significant difference (Table 2). Endophily was comparable from one locality to another as well as between ecological zones. More than half (53.2%) of the *An. gambiae* caught were blood fed and 38.8% were gravid. Significant variation (Table 2) in blood feeding rate was observed between localities and according to ecological zones (Table 2). In the plateau area blood feeding rate was significantly lower at Misserete (50.7%), Adjohoun (52.4%), Dangbo and Seme (54.3%) than all other localities (Table 2). However, it was higher at peripheral of Dangbo where 70.2% of mosquitoes blood fed. Blood fed females were more common than gravid females throughout the study area (Table 2).

Endophagy

A total of 896 HLC sessions yielded 9,068 *An. gambiae*. 6,364 *An. gambiae* were captured by indoor human landing catch versus 2,704 *An. gambiae* collected outdoors. Endophagy rate was estimated at 70.18% (Table 3), that is approximately 3/4 of the *An. gambiae* sampled preferred to take their meals inside the houses. This relatively high degree of endophagy ranged between 59.78% (Misserete peripheral) and 79.57% (Dangbo plateau) (Table 3) and characterized all localities. There was no significant difference between localities and between ecological zones (Table 3). This requires a prevention strategy against aggressive mosquitoes inside

Table 2. Endophily, blood feeding and gravid behaviour of *Anopheles gambiae* in Adjohoun, Dangbo, Misserete and Seme districts (May to July 2008).

| Locality | Total | Npsc | N gravid | N blood fed | Parameter | | | | | |
|---------------|-------|------|----------|-------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | Endophily rate (%) | | Gravid rate (%) | | Blood feeding rate (%) | |
| | | | | | Mean | [95 %CI] | Mean | [95 %CI] | Mean | [95 %CI] |
| Adjohoun pl | 84 | 58 | 26 | 44 | 69.45 ^a | [59.07-79.82] | 30.75 ^a | [24.09-37.40] | 52.38 ^{ab} | [50.37-53.62] |
| Dangbo pl | 84 | 53 | 31 | 46 | 63.86 ^a | [51.98-75.73] | 36.59 ^{ab} | [33.91-39.27] | 54.33 ^{ab} | [50.36-58.29] |
| Misserete pl | 84 | 52 | 29 | 43 | 62.12 ^a | [53.33-70.91] | 34.19 ^{ab} | [30.43-37.94] | 50.66 ^a | [44.85-56.47] |
| Seme pl | 388 | 250 | 142 | 151 | 64.38 ^a | [57.59-71.16] | 36.60 ^{ab} | [29.66-43.54] | 54.33 ^a | [43.74-64.92] |
| Adjohoun per | 91 | 55 | 41 | 61 | 60.94 ^a | [52.48-69.40] | 44.72 ^{cd} | [41.44-47.99] | 66.66 ^{cd} | [61.89-71.43] |
| Dangbo per | 82 | 50 | 38 | 57 | 61.87 ^a | [55.25-68.50] | 46.93 ^d | [41.43-52.43] | 70.16 ^d | [62.05-78.27] |
| Misserete per | 288 | 210 | 120 | 180 | 73.30 ^a | [66.95-79.64] | 41.83 ^{bcd} | [39.00-44.66] | 62.16 ^{bcd} | [58.10-66.22] |
| Seme per | 90 | 55 | 35 | 52 | 61.38 ^a | [52.19-70.57] | 39.02 ^{cd} | [32.81-45.22] | 58.33 ^{abc} | [49.19-67.47] |
| Total | 1191 | 783 | 462 | 634 | 65.74 | [62.12-67.20] | 38.79 | [36.86-40.79] | 53.23 | [55.99-61.17] |

pl: plateau; per : peripheral; C I: 95% Confidence Interval; psc: pyrethrum spray catch; for a same parameter of the table values in column with different superscript were significantly different (p<0.05).

Table 3. Human biting rate (HBR) and endophagy of *An. gambiae* by locality and ecological zone.

| Locality | Total number | Number of man night | Total number inside | Endophagy (%) |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Adjohoun pl | 272 | 112 | 200 | 73.52 ^a |
| Dangbo pl | 328 | 112 | 261 | 79.57 ^a |
| Misserete pl | 136 | 112 | 88 | 64.70 ^a |
| Seme pl | 1692 | 112 | 1080 | 63.82 ^a |
| Adjohoun per | 896 | 112 | 592 | 66.07 ^a |
| Dangbo per | 1904 | 112 | 1375 | 72.21 ^a |
| Misserete per | 1104 | 112 | 660 | 59.78 ^a |
| Seme per | 2736 | 112 | 2108 | 77.04 ^a |
| Total | 9068 | 896 | 6364 | 70.18 |
| Ecological zone | | | | |
| pl area | 2428 | 448 | 1629 | 67.09 ^a |
| per area | 6640 | 448 | 4735 | 71.31 ^a |

pl: plateau; per : peripheral; for a same parameter of the table values in column with different superscript were significantly different (p<0.05).

houses.

Lifespan and infectivity

The parous rate for *An. gambiae* ranged from 68.18 to 80.06% (Table 4a, b). The average parous rate was 77.10% with variations from one locality to another. At Seme peripheral, the parous rate appeared higher (80.06%) but comparable with other localities (Table 4b). At Adjohoun peripheral the rate was lower (p <0.05). There was no seasonal variation in longevity. The entomological inoculation rate (EIR) ranged from 0 to 0.73 infective bites per person per night (Tables 4a, b). Projecting this rate throughout the study period, it appears that a man received theoretically between 14.7

and 21 infective bites in 7 months (January to July). However, EIR was higher in Seme (94.5 to 153.3 infective bites in 7 months) and Adjohoun peripheral (100.8 infective bites in 7 months). These infections were obtained between April and July during the main rainy season. Between January and March (main dry season) EIR was zero except Seme plateau and Dangbo plateau (Table 4a) where one person received respectively 3.6 and 1.8 infective bites in three months.

Sensitivity, kdr genotype, species and molecular forms of *Anopheles gambiae*

Bioassays using non-insecticidal papers showed the control mortality rate in wild populations from each locality to be less than 5%. Overall *An. gambiae* showed

Table 4a. Parous rate and entomological inoculation rate of *An. gambiae* s.l. collected by HLC in the plateau area of Adjohoun, Dangbo, Misserete and Seme (south of Benin).

| Locality | | Dry season | | Rainy season | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------|
| | | January to March 2008 | | April to July 2008 | | | |
| Adjohoun plateau | N Total | 65 | | 207 | | 272 | |
| | Parturity % | 81.67 ^a | | 77.25 ^a | | 79.41 ^b | |
| | HBR | 1.35 | [74.08-89.26] | 3.23 | [71.68-82.82] | 2.43 | [75.74-83.07] |
| | N (ELISA) | 58 | | 70 | | 128 | |
| | S% | 0 | | 5.71 | | 3.12 | |
| | EIR (b/m/n) | 0 | | 0.18 | | 0.07 | |
| Dangbo plateau | N Total | 48 | | 280 | | 328 | |
| | Parturity % | 84.67 ^a | | 75.75 ^a | | 79.87 ^b | |
| | HBR | 1 | [70.99-98.35] | 4.375 | [60.25-91.25] | 2.93 | [71.39 -88.34] |
| | N (ELISA) | 48 | | 89 | | 137 | |
| | S% | 2.08 | | 4.49 | | 3.64 | |
| | EIR (b/m/n) | 0.02 | | 0.19 | | 0.1 | |
| Misserete plateau | N Total | 38 | | 98 | | 136 | |
| | Parturity % | 76 ^a | | 66 ^a | | 70.58 ^{ab} | |
| | HBR | 0.79 | [73.52-78.48] | 1.53 | [54.31-77.69] | 1.21 | [63.56 -77.59] |
| | N (ELISA) | 38 | | 78 | | 116 | |
| | S% | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | |
| | EIR (b/m/n) | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | |
| Seme plateau | N Total | 100 | | 1592 | | 1692 | |
| | Parturity % | 84.67 ^a | | 76.25 ^a | | 80 ^b | |
| | HBR | 2.08 | [78.42-90.92] | 24.88 | [68.63-83.87] | 15.11 | [74.49 -85.50] |
| | N (ELISA) | 52 | | 114 | | 166 | |
| | S% | 1.92 | | 3.5 | | 3.01 | |
| | EIR (b/m/n) | 0.04 | | 0.87 | | 0.45 | |

N Total: Total number; HBR: Human bite rate; N(ELISA): Number tested by ELISA CSP; S%: Sporozoite index; EIR (b/m/n): Entomological inoculating rate (infected bite/man/night); for a same parameter of the table, values in the dry season and in the rainy season which carry different letters in expositant were significantly different ($p < 0.05$). In the column of January to July 08 values which carry different letters in expositant were significantly different ($p < 0.05$) from one locality to other locality.

susceptibility to bendiocarb and deltamethrin was observed everywhere: 100% of *An. gambiae* tested were dead (Table 5). PCR has revealed 100% of mosquitoes tested were *Anopheles gambiae* s.s. M form. The frequency of the *kdr* alleles was 79.35% and frequency of *Ace-1* was 0% (Table 6). Furthermore, the survival rate obtained among the *An. gambiae* s.l. populations tested with permethrin was correlated with the frequency of the *kdr* allele (correlation coefficient $R^2 = 0.96$) as shown in Figure 2.

DISCUSSION

The present study provides entomological baseline data in the 4 districts before IRS in Benin. In this study, 14

species of Culicidae: 4 *Anopheles*, 5 *Culex*, 3 *Aedes* and 2 *Mansonia* were collected. In south east Benin (Cotonou and Porto Novo) Huttel (1950) and Hamon (1954) had identified the same species in varying proportions, but without reporting the presence of *Culex fatigans*, *Cx. quinquefasciatus* and *Aedes palpalis*. The factor that could explain the presence of these vectors is urbanization (Hamon et al., 1967). Another author, Akogbeto (1992), reported 8 species in Southern Benin with *Mansonia sp.*, *An. gambiae* s.l., *Culex thalassius* and *Culex. gr. decens*. Moreover, Djenontin et al. (2010) revealed 28 different species of Culicidae with *M. africana*, *C. gr. decens*, *C. quinquefasciatus*, *C. nebulosus*, *Anopheles nili*, *An. funestus* s.s. and *Anopheles lesoni* in southwest Benin. The variability in ecological diversity noted by different authors is probably

Table 5. Percentage of dead *Anopheles gambiae* observed after 1 hour exposure to 0.75% permethrin, 0.01% bendiocarb, 4% DDT and 0.05% deltamethrin in the localities of Adjohoun, Dangbo, Misserete and Seme (south of Benin) from January to July 2008.

| Locality | Permethrin | | | | DDT | | | | Deltamethrin | | | Bendiocarb | | |
|---------------|------------|---------------------|----------------|----|-----|---------------------|----------------|----|--------------|----------|----|------------|----------|----|
| | N | % Mort | | St | N | % Mort | | St | N | Mort (%) | St | N | Mort (%) | St |
| | | Mean | [95% CI] | | | Mean | [95% CI] | | | | | | | |
| Adjohoun pl | 100 | 60.00 ^b | [54.80- 65.20] | R | 100 | 32.00 ^b | [26.80-37.20] | R | 100 | 100 | S | 100 | 100 | S |
| Dangbo pl | 100 | 54.00 ^{ab} | [45.78- 62.22] | R | 100 | 20.00 ^a | [14.80- 25.20] | R | 100 | 100 | S | 100 | 100 | S |
| Misserete pl | 100 | 49.00 ^a | [42.91- 55.09] | R | 100 | 22.00 ^{ab} | [13.78- 30.22] | R | 100 | 100 | S | 100 | 100 | S |
| Seme pl | 100 | 47.00 ^a | [40.91- 53.09] | R | 100 | 19.00 ^a | [12.91- 25.09] | R | 100 | 100 | S | 100 | 100 | S |
| Adjohoun per | 100 | 75.00 ^c | [68.91- 81.09] | R | 100 | 30.00 ^b | [21.78- 38.22] | R | 100 | 100 | S | 100 | 100 | S |
| Dangbo per | 100 | 59.00 ^b | [52.91- 65.09] | R | 100 | 23.00 ^{ab} | [13.45- 32.55] | R | 100 | 100 | S | 100 | 100 | S |
| Misserete per | 100 | 58.00 ^b | [49.78- 66.22] | R | 100 | 26.00 ^{ab} | [17.78- 34.22] | R | 100 | 100 | S | 100 | 100 | S |
| Seme per | 100 | 54.00 ^{ab} | [45.78- 62.22] | R | 100 | 25.00 ^{ab} | [18.91- 31.09] | R | 100 | 100 | S | 100 | 100 | S |
| Total | 800 | 57 | [54.12- 59.38] | R | 800 | 24.62 | [22.49- 26.76] | R | 800 | 100 | S | 800 | 100 | S |

pl: plateau; per : peripheral; N: Number tested; C I : 95% confidence interval ; St: status; R: resistance; S: susceptible; mort : mortality ; For each insecticide, for a same parameter, values which carry different letters in exposant were significantly different ($p < 0.05$).

Table 6. Species identification, molecular forms (Mf) and frequency of the *kdr* and *Ace-1* genotypes (RR,RS,SS) in *Anopheles gambiae s.l.* females collected in the localities of Adjohoun, Dangbo, Misserete and Seme (south of Benin) from January to July 2008.

| Locality | Species | Mf | Kdr mutation | | | Ace-1 mutation | | | | |
|---------------|------------------------|--------|--------------|----|----|---------------------|----|----|-----|------------------|
| | <i>An. gambiae s.s</i> | M Form | RR | RS | SS | <i>F (Kdr)</i> | RR | RS | SS | <i>F (Ace-1)</i> |
| Adjohoun pl | 24 | 24 | 15 | 5 | 4 | 72.91 ^a | 0 | 0 | 24 | 0 |
| Dangbo pl | 28 | 28 | 20 | 5 | 3 | 80.35 ^a | 0 | 0 | 28 | 0 |
| Misserete pl | 28 | 28 | 24 | 4 | 0 | 92.85 ^b | 0 | 0 | 28 | 0 |
| Seme pl | 25 | 25 | 24 | 1 | 0 | 98 ^{bc} | 0 | 0 | 25 | 0 |
| Adjohoun per | 26 | 26 | 07 | 15 | 4 | 55.78 ^a | 0 | 0 | 26 | 0 |
| Dangbo per | 30 | 30 | 17 | 12 | 1 | 76.66 ^a | 0 | 0 | 30 | 0 |
| Misserete per | 28 | 28 | 16 | 12 | 0 | 78.57 ^a | 0 | 0 | 28 | 0 |
| Seme per | 29 | 29 | 25 | 0 | 4 | 86.20 ^{ab} | 0 | 0 | 29 | 0 |
| Total | 218 | 218 | 148 | 54 | 16 | 80.16 | 0 | 0 | 218 | 0 |

pl: plateau; per : peripheral; for a same parameter of the table values which carry different letters in exposant were significantly different ($p < 0.05$).

based on sampling techniques used, periods of study, study area and population dynamics of mosquitoes under external pressure. The presence

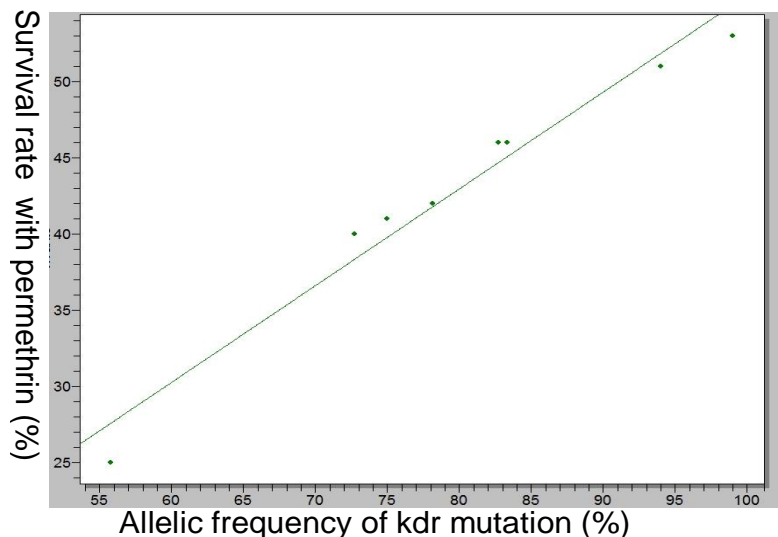


Figure 2. Correlation between *kdr* frequency and survival rates with permethrin.

of *An. gambiae s.l.* in all localities during the rainy season and dry season could be explained by the permanent presence and the abundance of small collections of natural waters. In contrast, the low presence of *An. funestus* in Adjohoun, Dangbo and Misserete could be justified by the richness of the soil in organic matter and human activities that pollute larval breeding sites and makes them less favorable to its multiplication; while this absence in Seme was likely due to soil salinity because of the proximity of the sea. Unlike to studies conducted in Benin (Akogbeto, 1992) and Cameroun (Atangana et al., 2009), in dry season (January, February, March) more Culicidae were captured (Adjohoun: 61.20%; Dangbo: 51.29%) than in rainy season (April, May, June and July) (Adjohoun: 38.8%; Dangbo: 48.71%). This could be explained by the overflow of the Oueme River enlarged by rains from the northern region of Benin. When the waters recede, small pockets of water form, creating favorable breeding sites of *M. africana*, *Culex sp* and the *An. gambiae* in December, January and February. But, the strong tendency for the endophily of *An. gambiae* (Mouchet, 1957) noticed in all localities could be justified by factors including the scarcity of outdoor shelters and the proximity of many breeding sites in the residential area. The endophagy could be justified by the juxtaposition of habitat because of communal lifestyle and the average number of 2.9 persons per bedroom facilitating the taking of human blood meal.

During the study period, the EIR estimated by extrapolation to 164.5, 175.2 and 266.45 infective bites per man per year, respectively for Seme plateau, Dangbo peripheral and Seme peripheral is higher compared to those mentioned by Akogbeto et al. (1992) in southern Benin. In this study, the determination of the sporozoite

was not done by ELISA for the presence of the CS protein, but was based on the detection in salivary glands by microscopy which might account for the lowest levels of sporozoite. However these EIRs are similar to those described by Adja et al. (2006) in the savannah zone of Côte d'Ivoire (EIR = 410 infective bites per year) where *An. gambiae*, *An. funestus* and *An. nili* were involved in malaria transmission and in western of Cameroon, where EIRs were estimated at 100.8 infective bites / man / year (Atangana et al., 2009). The number of infective bites per man per year, estimated at 25.55 (Adjohoun plateau, Adjohoun peripheral and peripheral Misserete), 36.5 (Dangbo plateau) and 0 (Misserete plateau) are significantly lower than the values for similar areas in south Benin in 1990 (Akogbeto et al., 1992). These low levels of the EIR are may reflect the widespread use of mosquito coils and promotion of ITNs. Despite these low EIR, the IRS is needed. Because an EIR less than 20 infective bites per man per year is sufficient to maintain a transmission of malaria (Akogbeto, personal communication). The variability of EIR observed in the 4 localities according to the seasons, could be justify by the rarity of *An. gambiae* in dry season.

From the perspective of molecular tools, data analysis confirmed that *An. gambiae* M form is the principal vector of malaria in the study area. The absence of the S molecular form showed that it must have been the ecological characteristics of the department of Oueme that did not support its selection. The high frequency of *kdr* observed in *An. gambiae* population has confirmed previous studies in south of Benin (Akogbeto and Yacoubou, 1999; Corbel et al., 2007; Yadouleton et al., 2010). The correlation that we observed between the frequency of the *kdr* allele and the survival rate following

exposure to permethrin suggests that the substitution type Leu1014 Phe in *An. gambiae* may be a contributing mechanism underlying this resistance (Ranson et al., 2000). This mutation is justified by the fact that the study area is dominated by farming activities and subjected to selection pressure exerted by the pesticides used by farmers to protect their crops (Akogbeto et al., 2005). The promoting of the use of ITNs encouraged by WHO, might have also contributed to this selection pressure of pesticides. The difference between mortality rate to DDT (22.62%) and permethrin (57%) of the study area could be explained by the involvement of other mechanisms resistance such as metabolic resistance (Corbel et al., 2007). The absence of resistance to bendiocarb has confirmed the previous studies carried out by Akogbeto et al. (2010) and Yadouleton et al. (2010).

Conclusion

The present study provides useful information on the mosquito species composition in south east of Benin and supports the feasibility of IRS as an anti-vector malaria control intervention in Adjohoun, Dangbo, Misserete and Seme. *An. gambiae* is highly endophagic, endophilic (feed and rest indoor) and resistant to permethrin and DDT. The choice of pyrethrinoid treatment of houses is not desired. A possible alternative is the use of bendiocarb, to which we have observed a good sensitivity in the case of *An. gambiae*. In case this product is held there is hope that malaria transmission will be reduced drastically.

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