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Composition and functional roles of the gut microbiota in mosquitoes

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An estimated 3500 species of mosquitoes (family Culicidae) exist worldwide of which several are known vectors of pathogens that cause disease in humans and other vertebrates. Mosquitoes also host communities of microbes in their digestive tract that form a gut microbiota. Recent studies provide important insights on how mosquitoes acquire a gut microbiota and the community of microbes that are present. Results also indicate that the gut microbiota affects several aspects of mosquito biology. Altogether, these effects impact mosquito fitness with potential consequences for disease prevalence.

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