

NT Entomology**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the NAMP Technical Committee **NOTE:**
 - a) the detection of the exotic midge *C. nudipalpis* at Cobourg Peninsula and Croker Island

BACKGROUND

2. Monitoring for biting midges in NT is conducted jointly by NT Govt and NAQS. NT Govt manages the collection of specimens at official NAMP sites, with NAQS providing the identification service. NAQS services an additional eleven monitoring sites at areas deemed at high risk of incursions of exotic species. The African Horse sickness project, run by Berrimah Vet Lab, has provided increased trapping opportunities this financial year.

DISCUSSION

1. Total budgeted collections 84. Total collections made 321 = 382%.
2. 9 official NAMP sites, 7 unofficial (NAQS) sites, and 11 AHS opportunistic sites across the Northern Territory were sampled.
3. Collectively, these produced almost 36729 midges belonging to 44 different species
4. Target species *Culicoides nudipalpis*, collected in single collections at Cobourg Peninsula (28 specimens) and on Croker Island (20 specimens). Both collections had a significant number of gravid females which suggests an established breeding population although the absence of this species in any subsequently monthly collections from the same site on Cobourg Peninsula does not support the presence of an established population. No detections were made at Gunbalunya or Beatrice Hill Farm, which suggests the incursion did not persist in those locations. The detection on Croker Island suggests a range extension from the Cobourg Peninsula.
5. The distribution and seasonality of established vector species have increased compared to the previous two years (Fig. 1). A factor contributing to this could be the increased trapping opportunities that have arisen from the AHS project.
6. Numbers of *C. actoni* were significantly higher than previous years which may also be attributed to increased collections of this species for the AHSV project. Numbers of *C. fulvus* and *C. wadai* numbers were significantly lower than last year while *C. brevitarsis* was collected in relatively similar numbers (Fig. 2).

Fig 1. Number of sites positive for vector species from monthly collections in NT from 2018-2021

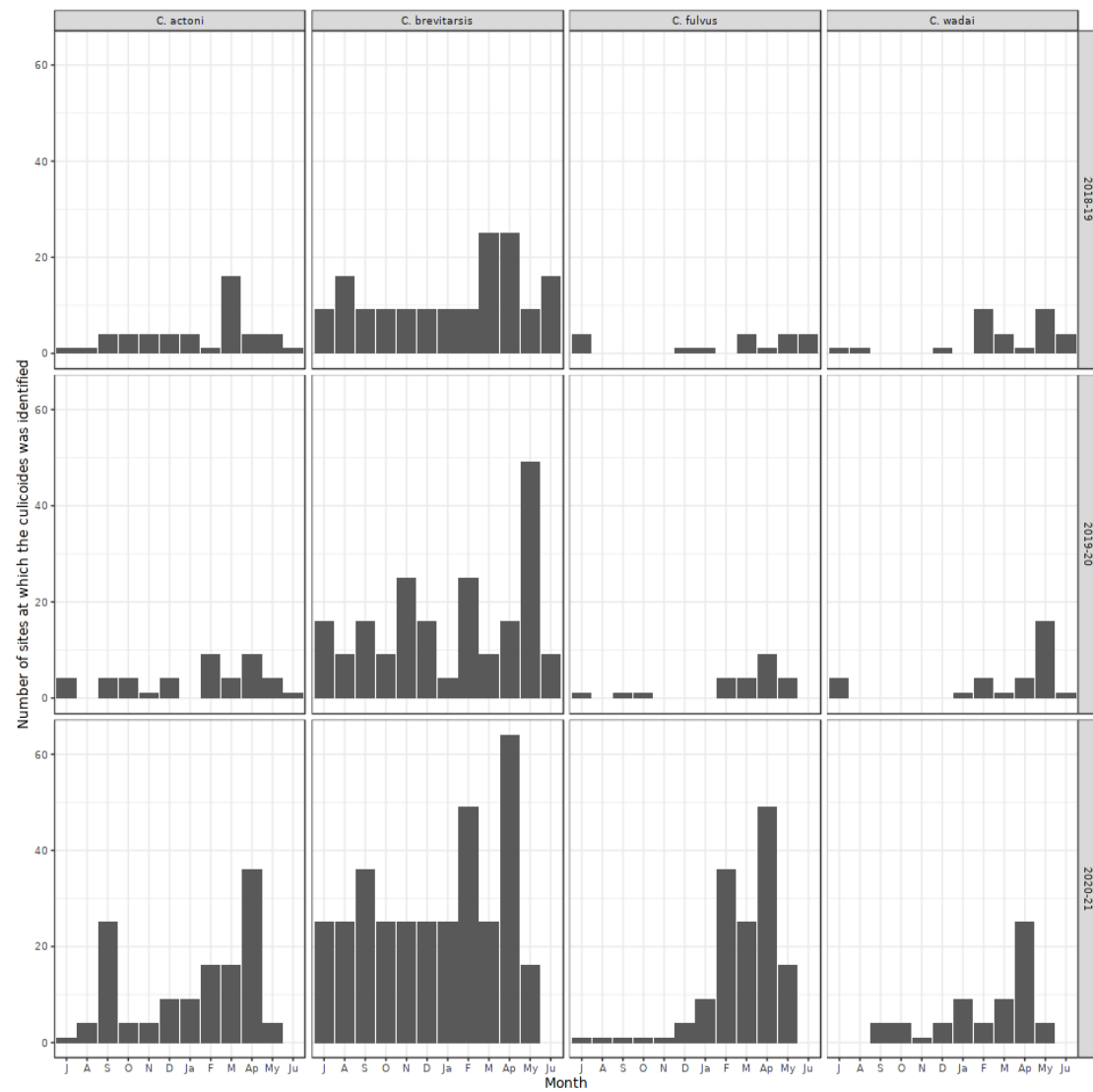
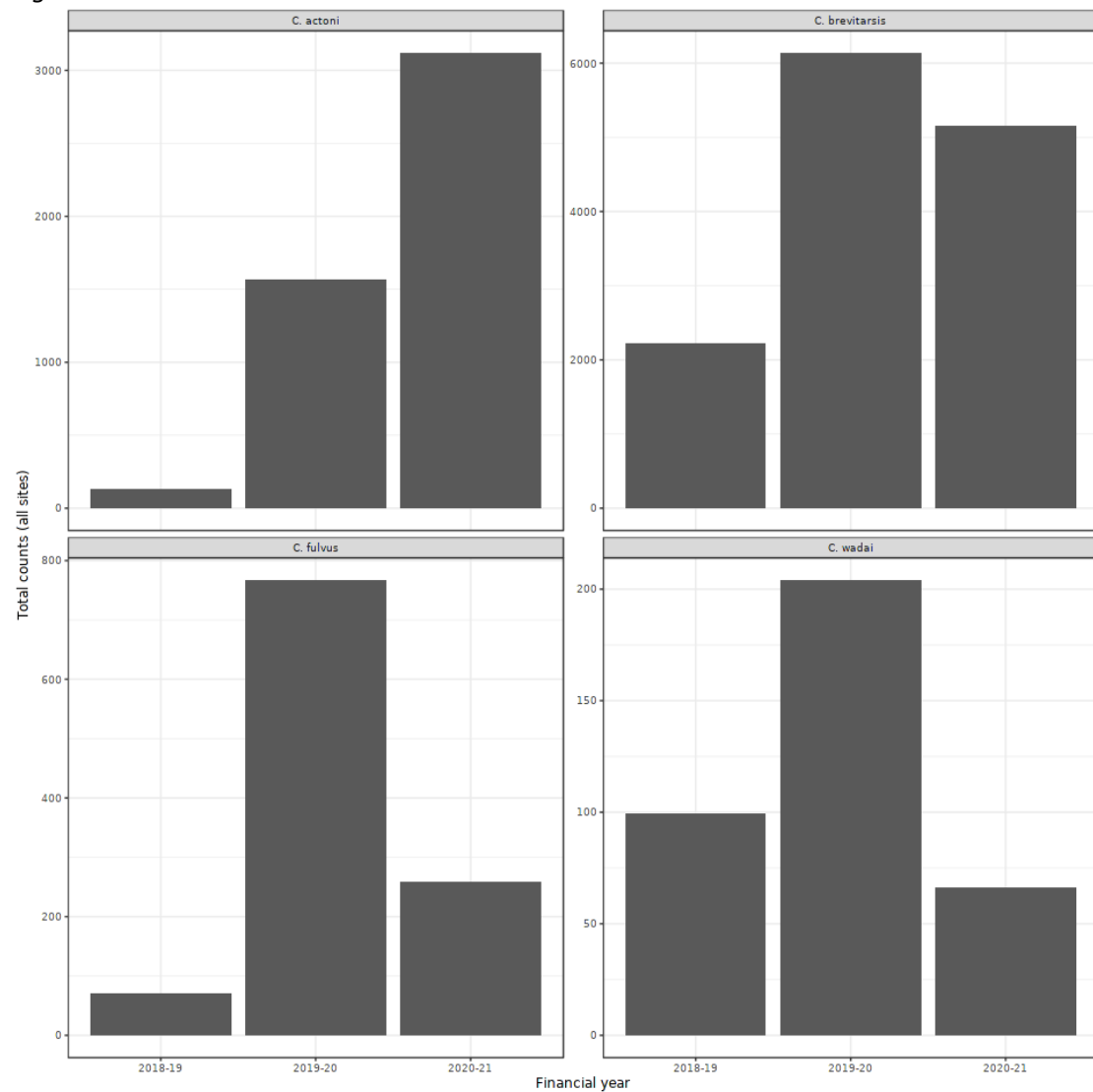


Fig. 2. Abundance of vectors in NT between 2018 and 2021.



FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

1. Nil

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

DAWE, the NAMP technical committee and NT CVO were advised immediately of the two detections of *C. nudipalpis*.

NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

2. None required