

**NT report Entomology**

July 2021 to June 2022

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the NAMP Technical Committee

**NOTE:** For the financial year 2021/22 there were no identification of exotic species; nor identification of vector species outside the bluetongue virus transmission zone.

**NOTE:** Staff changes in NAQS Darwin laboratory

**BACKGROUND**

1. Monitoring for biting midges in NT is conducted jointly by NT Govt and NAQS. NT Govt manages the collection of specimens at 13 official NAMP sites. NAQS manages collection at four sites.
2. Several adhoc monitoring sites for the African Horse Sickness (AHS) project, run by Berrimah Vet Lab, were included in the 2021/22 financial year.
3. NAQS Darwin entomology lab provides identification service for all specimens. In the last two years both Stacey Anderson and Glenn Bellis have departed the NAQS entomology lab. Identifications are now undertaken by entomologists Luke Watson and Anna Genge.

**DISCUSSION**

1. There are 17 official NAMP sites in the Northern Territory.
2. Total budgeted collections are 132. Eighty-five light trap collections were sorted = 65%. A further 64 animal bait collections were sorted as part of the AHS project.
3. Just over 20,000 midges were identified; however continued identification of specimen backlog is ongoing
4. The numbers of sites at which key *Culicoides* species were identified have decreased compared to the previous years (Fig. 1), however there are several collections missing from the 2021/22 year which may account for these data.
5. Numbers for *C. actoni*, *C. brevitarsus*, and *C. fulvus* were down on previous years (Fig 2). Missing collections may account for these data.
6. *C. wadai* was collected in relatively similar numbers (Fig. 2).
7. Due to significant staff turnover, there has been a delay in species identification.

**Fig 1.** Number of sites positive for vector species from monthly collections in NT from 2018-2022

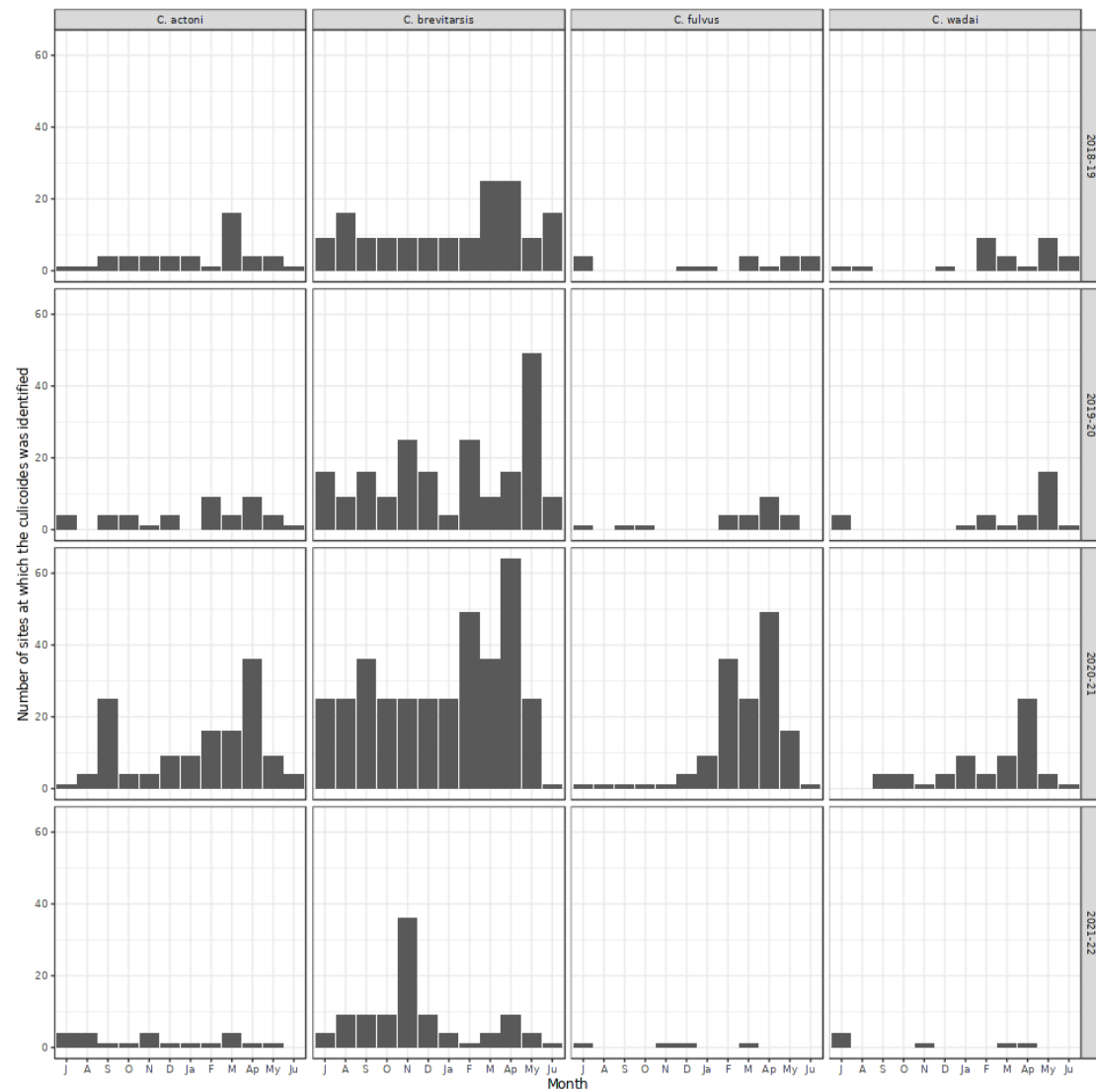
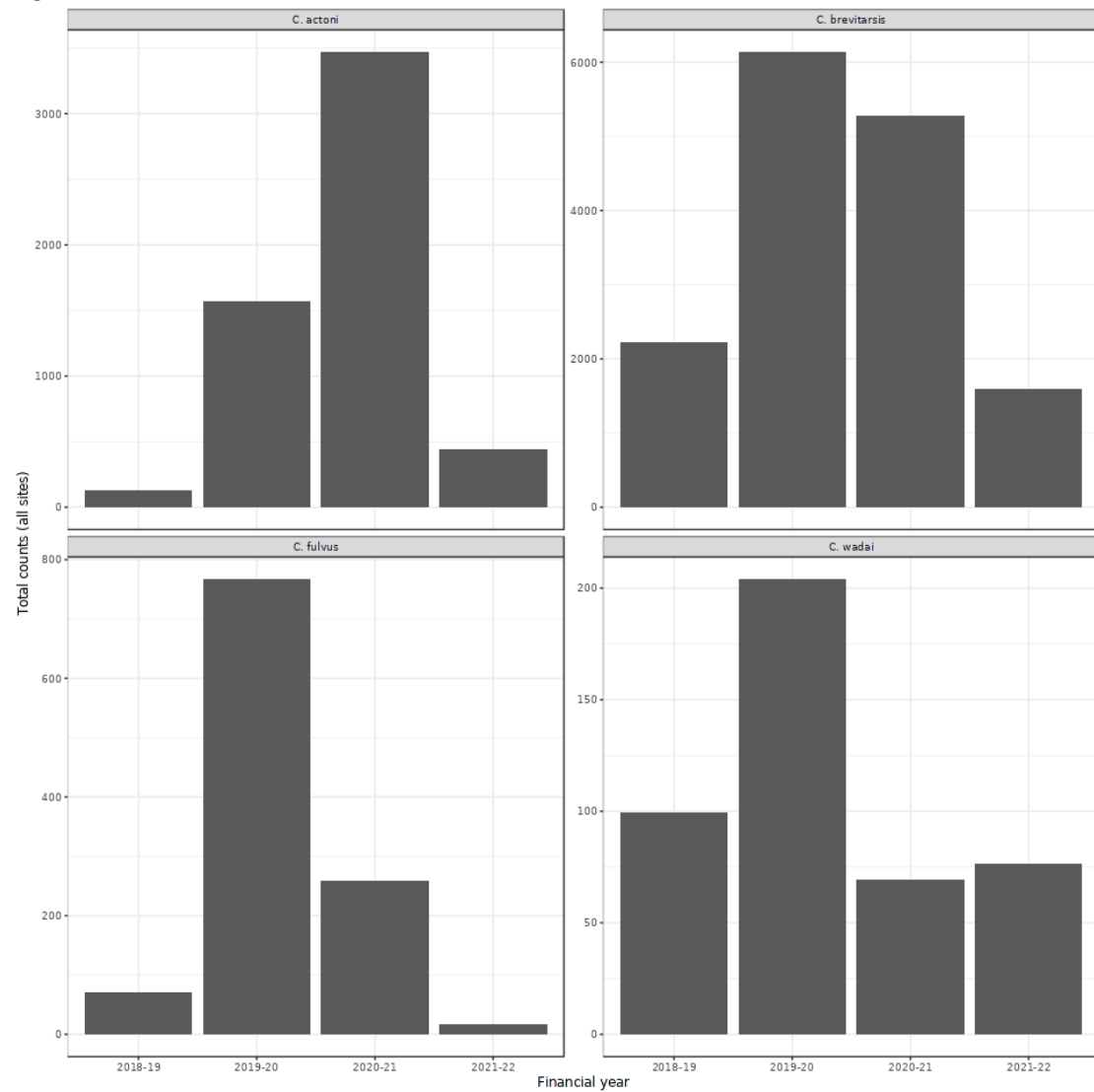


Fig. 2. Abundance of vectors in NT between 2018 and 2022.



## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

1. Nil

## CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

## NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

2. None required