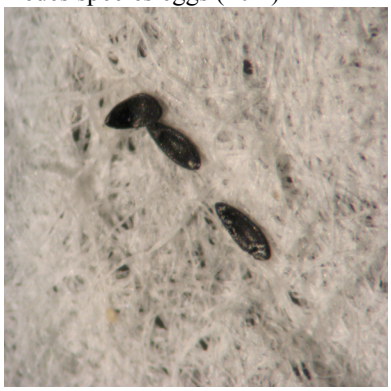
How to Identify mosquito Eggs

Aedes species eggs (20X)



So you have put the mosquito traps out in the "perfect" spot where you believe you will be successful in retrieving mosquito eggs. Two weeks later, you retrieve the traps and bring them into the laboratory. But now what do you look for? Many people do not know what to actually look for. An Aedes species egg is about 0.8mm in length and under magnification looks like mouse droppings (left).

These eggs could be found alone or in groups up to several hundreds.

Aedes species eggs (2X)

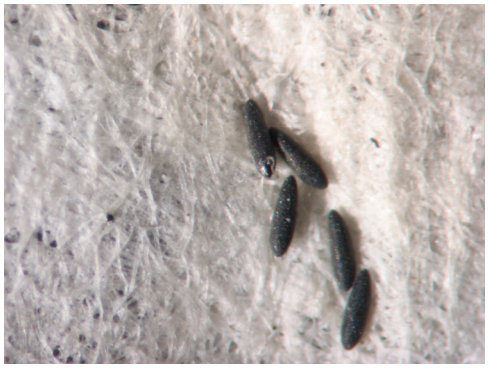
The eggs are usually laid where there is a crease in the filter paper. Sometimes the paper needs to be unfolded to reveal potentially a large number of eggs. As seen in the photo to the left, these eggs in the crease were hidden until the paper was unfolded.

Aedes species eggs (20X)

These eggs can be seen by the naked eye however it would be hard to count or remove without either a magnifying glass or a microscope. The best way to find eggs on a filter paper is to inspect the paper with the naked eye and once an egg or group of eggs is found, one can use a microscope to remove the eggs. Dried filter paper makes it very difficult to remove the eggs so one hint is to wet the filter paper before you remove

the eggs. If not, the eggs tend to “jump” and then become hard to find.

Aedes Species eggs (20X)



Aedes species eggs can remain out of the water for extended periods of time and still remain fertile. A dried out trap could still posses many eggs so the filter paper should still be examined. With the addition of water, these eggs will be able to hatch, unless they’ve gone into diapaus (a resting period) for the winter.

Aedes Species eggs (2.5X)