IT MIGHT LOOK LIKE A TRASH BIN, BUT IT IS NOT: MAINTENANCE OF LARVICIDE DISSEMINATION STATIONS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF BRASÍLIA

ANDRÉ ELIAS CAVALCANTI BEZERRA GUEDES[1], ELIAS LUIZ NEVES[1], ISADORA RIBEIRO DE CARVALHO GOMES[1], JOSÉ FABRÍCIO DE CARVALHO LEAL[1], KARINE BRENDA BARROS CORDEIRO[1], MAYRA DE SOUSA FÉLIX DE LIMA[1], TAÍS OLIVEIRA DE ARAÚJO[1], ANNA GABRIELA SOARES FRANÇA[2], DANIEL LUIZ DIAS DE AMORIM[1], GABRIELA DE OLIVEIRA MOSQUEIRA[1], JOÃO PAULO DE SOUZA JÚNIOR[1], MARIAM FRAIJI QUEIROZ[1], SANMUEL EDUARD PAULINO CARVALHO[1], SÉRGIO LUIZ BESSA LUZ[3], CARLA PINTAS MARQUES[1], MARCOS TAKASHI OBARA[1], RODRIGO GURGEL-GONÇALVES[1]

[1]UNIVERSITY OF BRASÍLIA, FEDERAL DISTRICT, BRAZIL

[2]CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF BRASÍLIA, FEDERAL DISTRICT, BRAZIL

[3]FIOCRUZ AMAZÔNIA, AMAZONAS, BRAZIL

The dengue vector control methods implemented by Brazilian health authorities in 2024 were insufficient to manage mosquito populations. Innovative technologies such as larvicide dissemination stations (DS) have emerged as alternatives to strengthen control efforts. We focus on the deployment of DS at the University of Brasília (UnB). Unlike its common use in residential settings, in this research we used DS in unrestricted human circulation areas. This leads to challenges such as people mistakenly identifying the DS as trash bins or removing them from their designated locations, compromising the intervention's effectiveness. On October 2024, we installed and mapped a total of 600 DS across 12 areas at UnB, nine of which were located on campus I, and three on campuses II, III and IV. Each area was assigned 50 DS. Following installation, we performed regular maintenance on the DS, recording observations about their integrity and trash presence over a period of three months. Considering all study areas and months combined, 8.79% of the DS contained trash, while 4% had been moved from their original installation sites. After three months, area 2 of campus I (UnB hospital) exhibited the highest percentage of DS with trash (23.20%), followed by campus IV (20%). In terms of DS removal, area 3 of campus I had the highest percentage (16%), followed by campus III (9.25%). Trash presence decreased monthly. In November, the percentage was 14%; 8.76% in December and 6% in January. We emphasize the critical role of regular maintenance and proper management of DS, highlighting the need for health education initiatives, as the method relies on public understanding and cooperation. The evaluation of the implementation of DS in areas with free public circulation is noteworthy, as such environments are less common for this type of control measure. Addressing these challenges is essential to ensure the optimal functioning and long-term sustainability of the technique.

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