

## **Malaria-resistant mosquito**

Michael Richle , Department of Entomology, University of Arizona, USA has found a new way to genetically engineer the mosquitoes by injecting a small piece of DNA that targets a gene called AKT into freshly laid eggs, AKT flips a molecular switch that permanently activates a malaria-destroying response making the mosquito immune to malaria. It takes 3 to 4 months to create a genetically engineered mosquito that is completely immune to the parasite that causes malaria The mosquito's gene, Akt, is involved in a number of processes, including lifespan, digestion, and reproduction and its overexpression blocks the development of human malaria parasite in mosquito. Under the microscope, a fluorescent red marker shows up in the eyes of mosquitoes that are now malaria-resistant.

Source and for more information

<http://www.ivanhoe.com/science/story/2011/02/817a.html>

<http://www.plospathogens.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.ppat.1001003>