

Review Article

Resistance status of *Aedes* mosquitoes as dengue vectors and the potential of plant larvicides from Indonesia for biological control: A narrative review

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Abstract

Dengue fever remains a major public health threat in Indonesia, exacerbated by rising insecticide resistance in *Aedes aegypti*. Strategies relying on chemical insecticides, while initially effective, have led to widespread resistance in mosquito populations. This resistance is particularly pronounced in areas such as Java, where the extensive use of insecticides, including organophosphates and pyrethroids, has been documented. To address this challenge, one promising alternative is the utilization of biolarvicides derived from local Indonesian plant materials. Biolarvicides are environmentally friendly, safe, and have the potential to mitigate the adverse impacts associated with chemical insecticides. Numerous studies have explored the larvicidal properties of indigenous plants native to Indonesia, demonstrating their efficacy against *A. aegypti*. The aim of this study was to examine insecticide resistance in *Aedes* mosquitoes across Indonesia, highlighting geographical variations and underexplored regions, and exploring plant-based biolarvicides as sustainable alternatives. Biolarvicides derived from native Indonesian plants could be eco-friendly alternative for dengue vector management. Their integration into existing control strategies could significantly enhance efforts to control dengue while reducing the environmental and health risks posed by chemical insecticides.

Keywords: *Aedes aegypti*, biolarvicides, dengue fever control, insecticide resistance, Indonesian plants

Introduction

Dengue fever represents a persistent global public health challenge, particularly in tropical and subtropical regions [1]. World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that approximately 390 million individuals are infected with dengue annually, with Southeast Asia, including Indonesia, among the most severely affected areas [2]. Dengue is primarily transmitted by *Aedes* mosquitoes, notably *Aedes aegypti* and *A. albopictus*, which serve as the principal vectors [3,4].



Vector control strategies have predominantly relied on chemical insecticides; however, the efficacy of these measures has been significantly compromised by the emergence of insecticide resistance among mosquito populations [3].

In Indonesia, dengue poses a substantial burden, with cases occurring year-round due to the tropical climate that supports the continuous proliferation of *Aedes* mosquitoes [5]. Stagnant water sources, including rainwater puddles, serve as ideal breeding habitats for *A. aegypti* [6,7]. In 2020, the Indonesian Ministry of Health reported over 100,000 dengue cases, resulting in approximately 800 deaths [8]. Despite continuous efforts to mitigate transmission, vector control measures face substantial challenges, with insecticide resistance being a critical issue [9]. The emergence of resistance to commonly used insecticides has undermined existing control efforts, highlighting the urgent need for innovative and sustainable strategies to effectively manage *Aedes* mosquito populations.

Insecticide resistance in *Aedes* mosquitoes is not a recent phenomenon; however, its prevalence has intensified in recent years. Previous studies conducted globally, including in Indonesia, have reported the development of resistance in *Aedes* populations to various insecticide classes, including pyrethroids, organophosphates, and carbamates [10,11]. Pyrethroids, widely employed in vector control programs, have become increasingly ineffective due to genetic mutations in *Aedes* populations [12]. These mutations, particularly in the *kdr* (knockdown resistance) genes, reduce mosquito sensitivity to insecticides, thereby diminishing the efficacy of conventional vector control strategies [13].

Despite extensive documentation of insecticide resistance in *Aedes* mosquitoes, significant gaps persist in understanding resistance patterns across Indonesia. The country's diverse geographic, climatic, and urbanization profiles suggest considerable variability in resistance across different regions [14]. Current studies predominantly focus on urban centers such as Jakarta and Surabaya, while rural and peripheral regions remain largely underexplored [15]. Furthermore, limited research on the molecular mechanisms underlying resistance in Indonesian *Aedes* populations hampers the development of targeted interventions tailored to specific resistance profiles.

Reliance solely on chemical insecticides has demonstrated long-term unsustainability due to the progressive development of resistance [16]. Consequently, integrated vector management strategies, which combine biological controls with environmentally sustainable alternatives to complement chemical insecticides, have gained increasing importance [16]. In response to the challenges posed by insecticide resistance, research efforts are shifting toward identifying alternative solutions for vector control.

One promising approach involves the use of plant-based biolarvicides [17]. These natural products, derived from botanical sources, have insecticidal or larvicidal properties that target mosquito larvae, thereby reducing mosquito populations at the pre-adult stage [18,19]. The application of biolarvicides offers several advantages over chemical insecticides, including a reduced environmental footprint, a lower likelihood of resistance development, and the utilization of renewable natural resources [20]. Such attributes make biolarvicides an attractive and sustainable component of modern vector control strategies.

Indonesia, recognized as one of the most biodiverse countries globally, harbors an extensive repository of plant species with significant untapped potential for biolarvicide development [21]. Ethnobotanical studies have documented the traditional use of various indigenous plants by local communities in Indonesia for insect control [22]. Notable examples include *Azadirachta indica* (neem) [23], *Euphorbia hirta* [24], and *Ocimum sanctum* (holy basil) [25], which have demonstrated larvicidal activity against mosquito species in laboratory studies. However, despite these promising findings, there is a substantial gap in research on the large-scale application and field efficacy of these plant-based larvicides against *Aedes* mosquitoes.

Further research gap exists in the standardization and formulation of plant-derived biolarvicides. Previous research emphasized the effects of crude plant extracts under laboratory conditions, but limited information is available about efficacy in natural environments or when scaled for public health interventions [26]. Therefore, the aim of this study is to address gaps in dengue vector control strategies by summarizing the status of insecticide resistance in *Aedes* mosquitoes across Indonesia, with particular emphasis on geographical variations and

underexplored regions. Additionally, this study presents the potential of plant-based biolarvicides as sustainable alternatives, incorporating ethnobotanical evidence, laboratory findings, and challenges in large-scale implementation. By highlighting these aspects, this review might contribute to the development of more effective and sustainable vector control strategies.

Historical overview of *Aedes* mosquito resistance in Indonesia: Trends, contributing factors, and implications for vector control

Larvicidal agents were introduced in Indonesia in the mid-20th century to combat rising dengue cases [27]. During this time, dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) became the primary choice for mosquito control, including efforts to reduce *A. aegypti* larval populations [28]. DDT was extensively applied in dengue-endemic areas through indoor and outdoor spraying and direct application to mosquito breeding sites [29]. Prolonged use of DDT led to resistance in *A. aegypti* populations across various regions [30], diminishing its effectiveness and prompting a gradual phase-out [15]. This resistance was attributed to sodium channel mutations, which reduced mosquito sensitivity to the insecticide [11]. DDT was eventually replaced by alternative insecticides, such as organophosphates (e.g., temephos) and pyrethroids (e.g., permethrin) [15]. However, resistance to these newer insecticides has also been reported, particularly in urban centers such as Jakarta, Indonesia, where significant resistance to pyrethroids has been identified [11].

1980s: Preliminary surveillance

Vector resistance to dengue was first documented in Indonesia during the early 1980s when *A. aegypti* began showing resistance to various insecticide classes [31]. This marked the initial recognition of resistance as a significant issue [15]. Concurrently with the escalating application of insecticides for population management of *A. aegypti* mosquitoes [15]. The extensive use of insecticides, particularly temephos as a larvicide, was implemented to control *A. aegypti* populations. Although initially effective, prolonged and repeated use led to resistance in certain regions [15]. Resistance to temephos and malathion emerged in *A. aegypti* populations across urban Indonesia [30], particularly in Jakarta, due to extensive use of malathion since the 1970s and temephos since the 1980s [32]. Prolonged exposure to these insecticides facilitated the survival and reproduction of resistant individuals [33]. By 1983, report highlighted insecticide resistance in *A. aegypti* populations in specific regions, particularly Java Island, where resistance to malathion and temephos had developed [15]. Resistance was not limited to these insecticides but also extended to other classes, including pyrethroids such as permethrin, which have been in use since the 1980s [34].

1990s: Worsening resistance

In the 1990s, dengue vector resistance in Indonesia intensified, with *A. aegypti* mosquitoes developing resistance to commonly used pyrethroid insecticides [35]. A study conducted between 1995 and 1998 in Salatiga and Semarang, Central Java, confirmed the emergence of resistance to permethrin in these mosquito populations [36].

2000s: Escalating resistance

During the 2000s, dengue vector resistance spread across various regions of Indonesia. Resistance to permethrin was detected in Semarang, Central Java, in 2003, with a notably high resistance level [36]. The highest resistance was observed in Salatiga, Central Java, with a 296-fold increase in the lethal concentration required to kill 95% of the tested population (LC_{95}) [36]. A 2007 investigation in Palembang, South Sumatra, and Surabaya, East Java, highlighted *A. aegypti* resistance to both permethrin and deltamethrin [37]. In Bandung, West Java, resistance to both insecticides was also evident, with resistance ratio (RR_{90}) values of 79.3 for permethrin and 23.7 for deltamethrin [37]. Augmented resistance transpires not solely to pyrethroids but also to organophosphate and carbamate insecticides [12].

2010s: Growing concern over resistance development

In this decade, the spread of dengue vector resistance has become increasingly concerning [38]. The prevalence of resistance is rising in various regions, particularly in large islands such as Java, Sumatra, and Kalimantan [39]. *A. aegypti* mosquitoes are showing resistance to newer, more potent insecticides [11]. In 2015, a correlation between permethrin and deltamethrin resistance and the *V1023G* mutation was identified in Yogyakarta Province, suggesting that the efficacy of pyrethroids could diminish in the region, necessitating the implementation of resistance management strategies [40]. In 2017, *A. aegypti* populations in dengue-endemic areas of Central Java, including Semarang, Surakarta, Kudus, and Jepara, showed high resistance to pyrethroids [41]. Resistance also emerged outside Java, as observed in Denpasar, Bali, in 2017, where mortality rates of *A. aegypti* were less than 90%, with the highest resistance noted for permethrin 0.75% [42]. A study in Toraja Regency, South Sulawesi, revealed that *A. aegypti* mosquitoes (high endemic strain) were resistant to 0.8% malathion and tolerant to 5% malathion, while larvae remained susceptible to 1% temephos [43]. In contrast, non-endemic *A. aegypti* strains were susceptible to malathion (0.8% and 5%) and temephos (1%) [43]. Resistance to temephos in Padang, West Sumatra, indicated that some *A. aegypti* populations were resistant, while others were tolerant, with no populations being susceptible [44]. In Banjarmasin, South Kalimantan, resistance levels varied, with mortality rates below 90% for most insecticides, except for malathion 5%, and the highest resistance recorded for 0.75% permethrin and 0.1% bendiocarb, where mortality rates were under 50% [45]. In Kuningan, Sunda Island, *A. aegypti* larvae showed resistance to diagnostic doses of chlorpyrifos, malathion, temephos, and DDT, with mortality rates ranging from 0% to 74.67% [46].

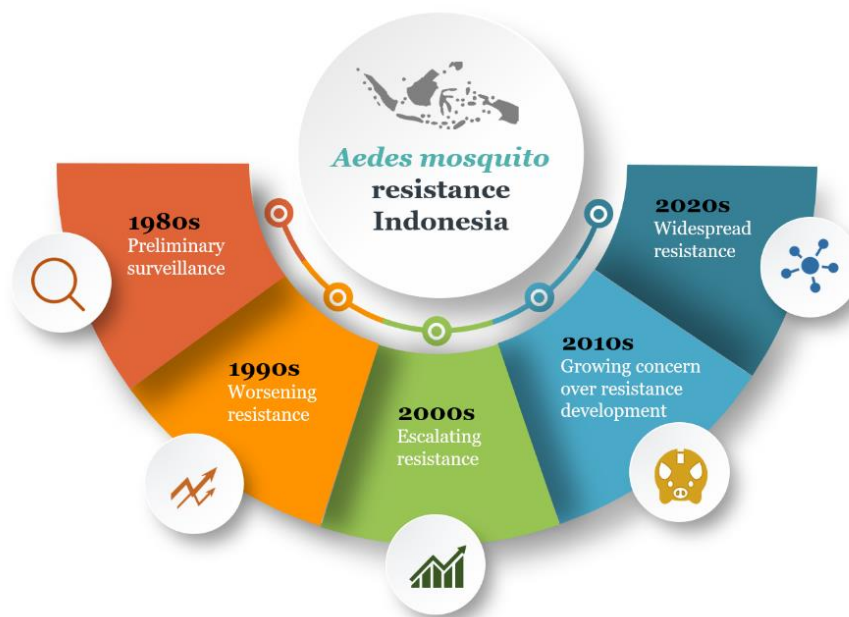


Figure 1. Historical development of *Aedes* mosquito resistance to insecticides in Indonesia.

2020s: Widespread resistance

In the 2020s, dengue vector resistance has become more widespread across Indonesia [47]. *A. aegypti* in Riau Province showed resistance to temephos and adult mosquitoes to 5% malathion [48]. A large-scale study in 2022 across 32 regencies and cities found low to moderate resistance to pyrethroids in strains from urbanized cities on Java Island, such as Banten, Jakarta, Bandung, Semarang, Yogyakarta, and Surabaya [39], while strains from less populated cities in Borneo Island showed high resistance to pyrethroids [49]. In 2023, resistance in Central Java was observed, with *A. aegypti* mortality rates following exposure to cypermethrin, malathion, and temephos ranging from 16–86%, 75–100%, and 6–51%, respectively. These findings indicate resistance to cypermethrin and temephos, while susceptibility to malathion was noted in 23.08% of strains from various elevations [31]. In Magetan Regency, East Java, resistance levels ranged

from 25% to 79.16% for malathion and 41.66% to 64.16% for alpha-cypermethrin. The summary of the dengue vector resistance studies in Indonesia is presented in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Summary of dengue vector resistance in Indonesia

Location	Insecticides	Findings	Reference
Salatiga and Semarang	Permethrin 0.75%	The highest level of permethrin resistance was observed, with a 296-fold increase at lethal concentration (LC) ₉₅	[36]
Bandung, Palembang, and Surabaya	Permethrin 0.75% and deltamethrin 0.05%	Reduced susceptibility to permethrin and deltamethrin was observed in Palembang and Surabaya	[37]
Surabaya	Temephos 0.012 mg/L	All field strains were resistant to temephos at 0.012 mg/L, with 24-hour mortality ranging from 22% to 60%	[50]
Yogyakarta	Permethrin 0.75% and deltamethrin 0.05%	V1023G mutation in Yogyakarta was associated with permethrin and deltamethrin resistance, indicating reduced pyrethroid efficacy	[40]
Semarang, Surakarta, Kudus, and Jepara	α-Cypermethrin 0.05%, deltamethrin 0.05%, λ-cyhalothrin 0.05%, and malathion 0.8%	<i>Aedes aegypti</i> populations in dengue-endemic areas of Central Java Province demonstrated high resistance to pyrethroid insecticides	[41]
Wonosobo	Malathion 0.8%	Biochemical resistance was detected in 50% of <i>Aedes</i> sp. samples collected	[51]
Jakarta	Permethrin 0,75%	<i>A. aegypti</i> in Jakarta is resistant to multiple pyrethroid insecticides used in control programs	[11]
Denpasar	Permethrin 0.75%	<i>A. aegypti</i> mortality remained below 90%, with the highest resistance to permethrin 0.75%	[42]
Toraja Regency	Malathion (0.8% and 5%) and temephos 1%	High-endemic strains of <i>A. aegypti</i> demonstrated resistance to 0.8% malathion and tolerance to 5% malathion, whereas the larvae remained susceptible to 1% temephos. In contrast, non-endemic strains were susceptible to 0.8% and 5% malathion, as well as 1% temephos	[43]
Yogyakarta	Cypermethrin 10 µg/bottle	<i>A. aegypti</i> from Yogyakarta City (93% mortality) and Sleman Regency (88% mortality) demonstrated potential resistance to cypermethrin	[52]
Padang	Temephos 0.02 mg/L	Temephos exposure indicated resistance in some <i>A. aegypti</i> populations, tolerance in others, and no susceptibility across all populations	[44]
Ciamis, Purwakarta, Bogor, Bandung, Denpasar, Mataram, Kuningan, Padang, and Samarinda	Permethrin 0.75% and deltamethrin 0.05%	Strains from Denpasar, Mataram, Kuningan, Padang, Samarinda, and East Sumba demonstrated resistance (<80% mortality), whereas those from West Manggarai, Dompu, and Pontianak were susceptible (>98% mortality)	[12]
Banjarmasin	Malathion 5%, deltamethrin 0.05%, permethrin 0.75%, λ-cyhalothrin 0.05%, bendiocarb 0.1%, and cyfluthrin 0.15%	<i>A. aegypti</i> demonstrated varying resistance to insecticides, with mortality rates below 90% for most compounds, except for 5% malathion. The highest resistance was observed with 0.75% permethrin and 0.1% bendiocarb, with mortality rates below 50%	[29]
Bengkulu	Malathion 5% and cypermethrin 0.05%	<i>A. aegypti</i> from endemic and sporadic dengue areas in Bengkulu City remain susceptible to malathion and cypermethrin; however, signs of emerging resistance mechanisms have been observed	[45]
Kuningan	DDT, chlorpyrifos, malathion 5%, and temephos	<i>A. aegypti</i> larvae demonstrated resistance to diagnostic doses of chlorpyrifos, malathion, temephos, and dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane	[46]

Location	Insecticides	Findings	Reference
Magelang	Pyrethroid	(DDT), with mortality rates ranging from 0% to 74.67% Several <i>kdr</i> mutations associated with pyrethroid resistance were identified in <i>A. aegypti</i> , with urbanization potentially contributing to their development	[53]
Pekanbaru	Temephos 0.02 mg/L and malathion 5%	<i>A. aegypti</i> larvae were resistant to temephos, while adult mosquitoes were resistant to 5% malathion	[48]
Pesisir Selatan Regency	Temephos 0,02 mg/L	<i>A. aegypti</i> larvae demonstrated tolerance to 0.012 mg/L temephos, with a mortality rate of 91.67%	[54]
32 regencies/cities in Indonesia	Deltamethrin 0.05%, permethrin 0.75%, bendiocarb 0.1%, and pyrimiphos-methyl	<i>A. aegypti</i> strains from highly urbanized cities in Java (Banten, Jakarta, Bandung, Semarang, Yogyakarta, and Surabaya) had low to moderate resistance to pyrethroids, whereas strains from less populated regions of Borneo demonstrated high resistance.	[49]
Central Java	Cypermethrin 0.05%, malathion 5%, and temephos 0.02 mg/L	<i>A. aegypti</i> mortality following exposure to cypermethrin, malathion, and temephos ranged from 16% to 86%, 75% to 100%, and 6% to 51%, respectively	[31]
Magetan Regency	Malathion 5% and cypermethrin 0.05%	Resistance to malathion ranged from 25% to 79.16%, while resistance to alpha-cypermethrin ranged from 41.66% to 64.16%	[55]

Types of resistance in *Aedes* mosquitoes: Pyrethroid, malathion, and temephos resistance mechanisms across Indonesia

Resistance of *Aedes* mosquito to pyrethroids

Pyrethroid insecticides, synthetic derivatives of pyrethrin found in chrysanthemum flowers (*Chrysanthemum cinerariifolium*), are designed to mimic the structure and mechanism of pyrethrin but showed greater stability under solar radiation and prolonged efficacy [56]. These compounds disrupt the insect nervous system by modifying sodium channels on nerve cell membranes, causing continuous depolarization, nerve dysfunction, paralysis, and ultimately insect death [57]. Pyrethroids are widely used for controlling *A. aegypti* mosquitoes, which are primary vectors of diseases such as dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) [58]. In Indonesia, commonly used pyrethroid formulations include permethrin, deltamethrin, cypermethrin, and lambda-cyhalothrin [39].

Permethrin is widely employed to control adult mosquitoes through insecticide-infused mosquito nets and sprays. However, prolonged use has resulted in resistance in *A. aegypti* mosquitoes [59]. Numerous studies have reported permethrin resistance in Indonesia. In 2003, resistance levels were notably high in Salatiga and Semarang, Central Java [36]. *A. aegypti* in Palembang, South Sumatra, and Surabaya, East Java, showed tolerance to permethrin, while the Bandung, West Java, strain demonstrated resistance with RR_{90} of 23.7 [37]. The resistance in the Bandung strain is attributed to elevated activity of detoxifying enzymes [37]. Other cities in Indonesia with documented permethrin resistance include Yogyakarta [40,52], Jakarta [11], Denpasar [42], and Banjarmasin [29].

Deltamethrin is another widely used pyrethroid insecticide for controlling *A. aegypti* mosquitoes [60], applied as an aerosol for outdoor fumigation to target flying adult mosquitoes [61]. Residual spraying of deltamethrin on walls and surfaces, commonly used as mosquito resting sites, creates a thin insecticidal layer that kills mosquitoes upon contact [61]. Additionally, mosquito nets impregnated with deltamethrin provide protection by exposing mosquitoes to the insecticide upon landing, leading to their death [62]. Mosquitoes landing on impregnated nets are exposed to deltamethrin, resulting in mortality [62]. Deltamethrin is highly effective against adult *A. aegypti* mosquitoes, demonstrating a rapid knockdown effect [11]. However, continuous application has led to resistance development [15]. Resistance to deltamethrin has been reported in Yogyakarta in 2015 [40] and Banjarmasin in 2018 [29].

Resistance of *Aedes* mosquitoes to malathion

Organophosphate insecticides, including malathion, are used less frequently than pyrethroids due to their higher toxicity risk. Resistance to malathion emerges in initially susceptible *A. aegypti* populations when mosquitoes survive exposure to the insecticide. This resistance trait is subsequently inherited by subsequent generations [63]. The development of malathion resistance has become increasingly evident, particularly in fogging programs targeting *A. aegypti* larvae. According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, mosquito populations that survive exposure to standard doses of insecticides for more than 60 minutes are considered resistant [64].

A study in Makassar, South Sulawesi, and other regions of Indonesia revealed that *A. aegypti* larvae from non-fogged areas demonstrated 100% mortality rates significantly faster than larvae from fogged or frequently fogged areas, where mortality rates were notably reduced and often failed to reach 100% by the end of the trials [64]. Similar findings were observed in Toraja Regency, South Sulawesi, where adult *A. aegypti* from high-endemic areas demonstrated resistance to 0.8% malathion [43].

In Wonosobo Regency, a highland area in Central Java, mosquito density exceeded dengue control standards (house index (HI): 14.75%; container index (CI): 6.8%; breteau index (BI): 15.6; ovitrap index (OI): 11.30%), and biochemical resistance was detected in 50% of *Aedes* species, contributing to ongoing dengue transmission despite the elevated location [51]. Resistance test in Banjarmasin, South Kalimantan, involving 402 *A. aegypti* samples, revealed a tolerant status with mortality rates below 98% [29]. In Bengkulu, a study in endemic and sporadic areas indicated susceptibility to malathion and cypermethrin, although signs of emerging resistance mechanisms were observed [45]. In the Kuningan, Sunda Islands, *A. aegypti* larvae demonstrated resistance to malathion, with mortality rates below 74.67% [46]. High resistance levels were also recorded in Magetan Regency, East Java, with mortality rates ranging from 25% to 79.16% [55]. In Central Java, exposure to malathion resulted in mortality rates ranging from 75% to 100% [31].

Resistance of *Aedes* larvae to temephos

Prolonged use of temephos has led to the development of resistance in mosquito larvae against this larvicide. According to WHO guidelines, susceptibility to temephos is assessed based on the lethal concentration required to kill 99% of the tested population (LC_{99}) within 24 hours. If the required dose to achieve LC_{99} exceeds 0.02 mg/L within 24 hours, the mosquito larvae are classified as resistant to temephos [65]. Studies investigating the susceptibility of *A. aegypti* larvae to temephos in regions such as Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, as well as the United Kingdom, demonstrated varying results [66,67]. Mosquito populations frequently exposed to temephos had prolonged mean times to death, attributed to elevated nonspecific esterase enzyme levels, and these resistance mechanisms could be mitigated by incorporating anti-esterase components to reduce larval resistance [66,67]. Similar findings were observed in Riau, Indonesia, where alpha esterase activity tests indicated high sensitivity in most mosquitoes, while beta esterase activity tests revealed moderate resistance [48].

Resistance to temephos in *A. aegypti* larvae has also been reported in several dengue-endemic cities in Indonesia. For instance, in Surabaya, East Java, susceptibility testing across 12 sub-districts using WHO protocol revealed resistance at a dose of 0.012 mg/L (**Table 2**). Mortality rate within 24 hours ranged from 22% to 60%, necessitating further tests to determine the median lethal time (LT_{50}), with resistance ratios ranging from 2.2 to 8.5 [50]. Resistance has also been documented in other Indonesian cities, including Toraja, with a tolerant status toward temephos [43], Padang [44], Kuningan [46], Pekanbaru [48], Painan [54], and Semarang [31].

Factors contributing to insecticide resistance in *Aedes*: Biological, environmental, operational, and exposure-related determinants

Extensive research has demonstrated that the development of insecticide resistance is primarily driven by mutations in insecticide receptor sites and alterations in detoxification mechanisms. These changes involve qualitative and quantitative modifications in enzymatic processes

responsible for detoxifying or neutralizing insecticidal compounds [71]. Biological factors such as temperature, high humidity, rainfall, and population density create optimal breeding conditions for *A. aegypti* mosquitoes [64,65], facilitating their proliferation [72]. Operational factors, including inappropriate insecticide use, also contribute to resistance [73]. Examples include the administration of abate based solely on community requests or in response to dengue cases, suboptimal dosing of abate, improper fogging practices (e.g., incorrect insecticide concentrations, mixing, or application timing), and insufficient adherence to recommended guidelines [64]. Furthermore, frequent exposure to insecticides, particularly in rural areas where agricultural use is higher, has been associated with resistance development, as evidenced by domestic and international studies [74].

The growing resistance of *A. aegypti* mosquitoes to insecticides in Indonesia poses a significant obstacle to vector control programs aimed at mitigating diseases such as DHF, chikungunya, and Zika virus [15]. Resistance arises when mosquito populations acquire the ability to survive exposure to previously effective insecticides [75]. In tropical regions, including Indonesia, insecticide-based interventions—particularly those utilizing pyrethroids—form the cornerstone of *A. aegypti* control strategies [35]. However, a concerning increase in pyrethroid resistance has been reported across multiple regions in Indonesia over the past few decades [15]. This trend threatens the efficacy of vector control measures and raises the risk of mosquito-borne diseases outbreaks [76]. Factors contributing to resistance include improper insecticide use and environmental conditions that accelerate resistance development [77].

Table 2. Summary of resistance mechanisms, associated genes, and their impact on the efficacy of insecticides used against *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes in Indonesia

Insecticide class	Resistance mechanism	Associated genes/enzymes	Impact on efficacy	Reference
Pyrethroids (permethrin, deltamethrin, cypermethrin, and lambda-cyhalothrin)	Target-site <i>kdr</i> mutation in sodium channels and metabolic detoxification through elevated esterase and P450 enzymes	<i>kdr</i> gene mutations (e.g., <i>V1016G</i> , <i>F1534C</i>)	Lower mortality rates and reduced knockdown effect	[15,29,37,40]
Organophosphates (malathion)	Increased metabolic detoxification through elevated esterase activity	Esterase genes (e.g., <i>ester</i> and <i>ace-1</i>)	Decreased efficacy of fogging programs with increased mosquito survival rates	[15,37,68-70]
Temephos	Increased esterase and glutathione-S-transferase (GST) activity	Esterase genes, <i>GST</i> genes	Reduced larvicidal effectiveness, leading to prolonged larval mortality time	[48,50,66,67]

Excessive and improper use of insecticides

The overuse of insecticides, characterized by high application frequency and elevated concentrations, can initiate a natural selection process that fosters the development of resistance in *A. aegypti* mosquitoes [77]. Continuous application of insecticides at excessive doses favors the survival and reproduction of mosquitoes with inherent resistance, while susceptible populations are eliminated [78]. Consequently, over time, the mosquito population becomes predominantly resistant to the insecticide [79]. A study conducted in various regions of Indonesia, including Yogyakarta and Surabaya, has reported a significant increase in resistance to pyrethroid insecticides such as permethrin and deltamethrin, attributed primarily to uncontrolled and excessive insecticide use [77].

In addition to overuse, improper practices such as failure to adhere to recommended dosages or inadequate rotation of active ingredients further accelerate resistance development [80]. Sublethal exposure, such as administering doses insufficient to eliminate mosquitoes but capable of inducing genetic adaptations [42,44] promotes the emergence of more resistant mosquito individuals [81]. A study in Central Java demonstrated that infrequent and suboptimal insecticide applications by local communities contributed to resistance, including resistance to carbamates

used as alternatives to pyrethroids, highlighting the influence of improper household insecticide use on resistance dynamics [31,53].

Excessive and repeated applications of insecticides, particularly pyrethroids, have resulted in the widespread emergence of resistant mosquito populations [82]. This overreliance on chemical interventions has diminished insecticide efficacy, necessitating the exploration of alternative pest-control strategies [83]. Sublethal insecticide exposure, such as that encountered with mosquito-repellent coils, has been shown to accelerate resistance development [84]. Recurrent exposure has been associated with reduced mortality rates in resistant populations, thereby complicating vector control efforts [85]. The rise of insecticide resistance in *A. aegypti* represents a significant challenge to vector control programs and increases the risk of mosquito-borne disease transmission. Innovative approaches, such as the use of *Wolbachia*-infected mosquitoes or natural larvicides, are under investigation to address resistance and enhance the efficacy of control measures [86]. To combat these challenges, continuous monitoring of resistance trends and the implementation of integrated vector management strategies are essential.

Lack of rotation and diversification of insecticides

The insufficient rotation and diversification of insecticides constituted a critical factor contributing to insecticide resistance in *A. aegypti* mosquitoes [87]. The repetitive application of the same insecticide or class of insecticides, without incorporating a rotation strategy, imposed substantial selective pressure on mosquito populations, enabling resistant individuals to survive, reproduce, and transmit resistance alleles to subsequent generations [75]. The repeated use of uniform insecticides, particularly pyrethroids such as cypermethrin and malathion, significantly contributed to resistance among *A. aegypti* populations across Southeast Asia, including Indonesia [15]. This resistance undermined the effectiveness of insecticide-based control measures and complicated the management of outbreaks related to mosquito-borne diseases, including dengue, chikungunya, and Zika [88].

Insecticide rotation has been identified as an essential strategy in *A. aegypti* mosquito control to address resistance challenges and maintain the effectiveness of vector control programs [12,39]. Rotation reduces the selective pressure generated by the repeated use of a single insecticide [89]. Continuous application of the same insecticide allowed mosquitoes with resistance genes to survive and proliferate [90], leading to the dominance of resistant individuals within the population [75]. For example, switching from pyrethroid insecticides to organophosphate alternatives after a period of use helped mitigate the development of resistance [39].

Diversifying insecticide applications by incorporating products with varying mechanisms of action has been deemed essential for reducing the likelihood of resistance development [91]. Mosquitoes rapidly developed resistance mechanisms when exposed exclusively to a single insecticide [75]. Rotating insecticides at regular intervals alleviated the selective pressure on mosquito populations, thereby slowing resistance progression [12]. Furthermore, incorporating alternative control strategies, such as biological controls and environmental management practices, significantly reduced dependence on chemical insecticides and delayed the onset of resistance [39]. Implementing effective insecticide rotation and diversification strategies is critical, not only for controlling *A. aegypti* populations but also for safeguarding public health from dengue outbreaks [92]. Vector control policies should include routine resistance monitoring and the implementation of appropriate rotation schedules to ensure sustained control efficacy [75]. Through the adoption of a more comprehensive and integrated vector management strategy, the prevalence of dengue fever could be reduced, thereby enhancing public health protection within affected communities [39].

Genetic mutations in mosquitoes

The emergence of resistance in *A. aegypti*, a primary vector for multiple arboviruses, including dengue and Zika, represented a critical public health challenge [93]. Various factors contributed to the development of resistance within mosquito populations, including genetic alterations that reduced the efficacy of insecticidal agents [75]. One significant genetic mutation associated with resistance was the *kdr* mutation [94]. This mutation altered the amino acid configuration of the

sodium channel in *A. aegypti*, resulting in a diminished binding affinity for pyrethroid insecticides [95]. Consequently, mosquitoes exposed to pyrethroids demonstrated reduced rates of paralysis and mortality compared to baseline levels [96]. The *kdr* mutation primarily affected the *voltage-gated sodium channel (VGSC)* gene, the primary target of pyrethroid insecticides [96]. Common mutations such as *V1016I* and *F1534C*, associated with increased resistance to both type I and type II pyrethroids, were identified in various regions, including Ghana and USA [97]. Additionally, the overexpression of detoxifying enzymes, such as cytochrome P450, esterases, and glutathione S-transferase, significantly contributed to the development of resistance [72]. These enzymes facilitated the metabolism and neutralization of insecticides, thereby enhancing the survival of resistant mosquitoes [98].

Resistance was not limited to pyrethroids, as genetic mutations in other loci also conferred resistance to different classes of insecticides, including organophosphates and carbamates [99]. For instance, variations in the acetylcholinesterase gene (*ace-1*) conferred resistance to organophosphates and carbamates by reducing the binding affinity of these insecticides to their target enzyme [100]. In Indonesia, this specific mutation was observed in diverse *A. aegypti* populations, broadening the spectrum of resistance mechanisms shown by mosquitoes in response to insecticide exposure [54].

A study conducted in Indonesia identified numerous genetic mutations contributing to *A. aegypti* resistance against various categories of insecticides [15]. For instance, a study in Yogyakarta demonstrated widespread *kdr* mutations in the *VGSC* gene among local mosquito populations, increasing resistance to pyrethroids, including permethrin and deltamethrin [41]. Additionally, prior research identified mutations in the *ace-1* gene, which conferred resistance to organophosphate insecticides, particularly malathion [100]. In Surabaya, East Java, another study revealed that *A. aegypti* had dual resistance to pyrethroids and organophosphates, associated with mutations in both the *VGSC* and *ace-1* genes [101]. These findings indicated that mosquito populations in this region had developed advanced resistance mechanisms, enabling survival despite exposure to multiple insecticide classes [101]. A study in Bali further identified mutations in the *glutathione-S-transferase (GST)* gene, which correlated with resistance to organochlorine insecticides such as DDT [102]. Although DDT is rarely used in current practices, the identification of this mutation highlighted a potential resistance that could compromise the efficacy of insecticides with similar modes of action.

The distribution of genetic mutations causing insecticide resistance was not uniform across Indonesia [103]. Areas with intensive insecticide use, such as major cities and urban regions, showed higher mutation frequencies [104]. For example, in Jakarta and Bandung, where vector control programs frequently employed various insecticide classes, *kdr* and *ace-1* mutations were highly prevalent [31]. In contrast, rural areas with limited insecticide exposure demonstrated lower mutation frequencies, although some mosquito populations still harbored these mutations [53]. The dissemination of resistance mutations was also facilitated by human mobility and trade [105]. For instance, mosquitoes carrying resistant mutations spread rapidly through the movement of people and goods, accelerating resistance across Indonesia [106]. Studies in Bali revealed that the previously rare *kdr* mutation proliferated rapidly following increased population mobility and tourist activity [42].

The presence of genetic alterations conferring resistance to diverse categories of insecticides significantly impacts the efficacy of vector management initiatives [97]. As mosquitoes develop resistance to commonly used insecticides, the effectiveness of insecticide applications diminishes, reducing the success of mosquito control measures [75]. This phenomenon can lead to an increase in mosquito populations and an elevated risk of disease transmission, including dengue [107]. Despite intensive spraying, studies reported no significant decline in mosquito populations, with dengue cases remaining elevated during the transmission season [108]. Similarly, in Surabaya, East Java, dual resistance to pyrethroids and organophosphates posed substantial challenges for vector control programs [39]. The decline in insecticide efficacy has necessitated the exploration of alternative strategies. Public health officials have increasingly adopted synergistic approaches combining multiple insecticides with varying mechanisms of action or implemented non-chemical methods to manage mosquito populations effectively. These strategies aim to mitigate resistance and enhance the long-term sustainability of vector control efforts.

Environmental factors and climate change

The global phenomenon of climate change significantly influences the ecological dynamics of the *A. aegypti* mosquito [109]. Rising global temperatures and changing rainfall patterns affect mosquito life cycles, prolonging the breeding season and increasing the number of reproductive cycles per year [110]. With an increase in mosquito generations within a shorter time frame, the likelihood of genetic mutations leading to resistance also rises [86]. A study demonstrated that elevated temperatures not only accelerate mosquito life cycles but also enhance the rate of larval transformation into adult forms [111]. Analyses conducted in Southeast Asia, particularly in Indonesia, revealed that in areas with higher temperatures, *A. aegypti* mosquitoes show faster development and greater annual generational output compared to regions with more temperate climates [112]. As a result, the selective pressure from insecticide use intensifies, accelerating the evolutionary process of resistance [113]. Additionally, climate-induced changes in precipitation patterns also affect mosquito breeding habitats [114]. More frequent and erratic rainfall creates favorable conditions for mosquito breeding, such as waterlogging in urban areas [110]. This leads to an increase in mosquito populations and greater insecticide exposure, further promoting natural selection and resistance development [115].

The rapid urbanization in Indonesia has significantly altered the natural habitat of the *A. aegypti* mosquito, forcing these organisms to adapt to anthropogenic environments [116]. These mosquitoes have identified optimal breeding sites near human dwellings, including bathtubs, ornamental flower pots, and water retention vessels in urban areas [117]. This adaptation to human environments increased the mosquitoes' exposure to insecticides commonly used by residents for mosquito control [118]. A study showed that *A. aegypti* mosquitoes in metropolitan environments had considerably higher resistance compared to their rural counterparts [119]. This increased resistance was attributed to more frequent exposure to insecticides, both from household use and local government vector control programs [120]. For instance, a study in Jakarta demonstrated that mosquito populations in densely populated urban areas demonstrated higher resistance to pyrethroids and organophosphates than those in suburban regions, which experienced reduced insecticide exposure [11]. Urbanization has also transformed mosquito habitats from natural ecosystems to anthropogenic environments. As natural habitats were cleared for urban expansion, *A. aegypti* mosquitoes adapted to these new environments [121]. These adaptations often involved increased exposure to insecticides used by humans, which further accelerated the evolution of resistance [122].

Environmental factors and climate change contributed to the development of insecticide resistance in *A. aegypti*, posing significant challenges to the effectiveness of vector management strategies [28]. As resistance levels increased, insecticides that were once effective became less capable of controlling mosquito populations, thus increasing the risk of disease transmission [123]. A pronounced increase in insecticide resistance was observed in major urban centers in Indonesia, including Jakarta, Surabaya, and Denpasar [39]. This resistance prompted health authorities to explore more effective control alternatives, such as insecticide rotation, insecticide combinations, or non-chemical control methods [75]. However, without adequate regulation addressing environmental variables and the impact of climate change, resistance was expected to continue escalating [11,42].

Lack of surveillance and monitoring of resistance

Monitoring insecticide resistance is essential in vector control programs, particularly those targeting *A. aegypti* mosquitoes, which are primary vectors for diseases such as DHF, chikungunya, and Zika [124]. In Indonesia, insecticide resistance monitoring has been limited in both geographical coverage and frequency [39]. The lack of sufficient oversight has weakened the effectiveness of vector control efforts and accelerated the development of insecticide resistance in various regions [125].

Effective monitoring enables early detection of changes in mosquito sensitivity to insecticides [126]. With accurate data, health authorities could modify vector control strategies, such as implementing insecticide rotations or alternative control measures, before resistance reaches levels that threaten control effectiveness [12]. In the absence of adequate monitoring,

resistance often goes undetected until it reaches critical levels, making interventions more complicated and costly [127].

In Indonesia, surveillance of insecticide resistance remains sporadic and is often limited to areas with high dengue case numbers, such as Jakarta and Yogyakarta [47]. Research conducted in these major cities has revealed that resistance to pyrethroids and organophosphates has reached alarming levels [128]. Monitoring in rural and remote regions has been insufficient due to limited financial resources, a shortage of skilled personnel, inadequate infrastructure, and under-equipped laboratories, which have hindered a comprehensive understanding of insecticide resistance distribution nationwide [129]. These limitations have led to significant data gaps, impeding efforts to develop responsive and targeted control strategies [12].

The lack of insecticide resistance monitoring in Indonesia has had several detrimental effects [29]. Without accurate data, vector control programs often rely on repeated use of the same insecticides, which accelerates the development of resistance [107]. When resistance is not detected early, previously effective insecticides may lose their ability to control mosquito populations, potentially resulting in a surge in mosquito-borne diseases [129]. Furthermore, without sufficient oversight, identifying regions with significant resistance becomes difficult [129]. The use of generalized, non-specific control strategies, such as widespread insecticide application without assessing local resistance levels, often leads to inefficiency and resource waste, failing to achieve desired outcomes [130].

The absence of regular surveillance and monitoring of insecticide resistance in Indonesia has been identified as a key factor contributing to the increase in *A. aegypti* resistance [39]. Without accurate data and consistent monitoring, resistance often goes undetected until it reaches critical levels, reducing the effectiveness of vector control programs [88]. Enhanced surveillance and systematic monitoring are crucial to ensure that vector control strategies can be tailored to specific local contexts and maintain efficacy over time.

Use of insecticides in the non-health sectors

In Indonesia, the application of insecticides extends beyond the health sector's efforts to control disease vectors, encompassing significant use within the agricultural and forestry sectors [131]. The use of insecticides in these sectors may contribute to the development of insecticide resistance in *A. aegypti* mosquitoes, which are the primary vectors for diseases such as DHF, chikungunya, and Zika [132]. Insecticides used in agriculture often contain the same or similar active ingredients as those employed in public health vector control [32]. For example, pyrethroids, a key class of insecticides used to manage mosquito populations, are also widely applied in agricultural practices to combat crop pests [133]. When *A. aegypti* mosquitoes are exposed to this insecticide in an agricultural setting, they may develop resistance to the same active ingredient, reducing the efficacy of the insecticide when used in public health vector control programs [134].

Research conducted in East Java revealed that mosquitoes found near agricultural land had higher resistance to pyrethroids compared to mosquitoes located farther from such areas [39]. This suggests that insecticide use in the agricultural sector imposes selective pressure that promotes the emergence of resistance in mosquito populations [32]. This phenomenon of cross-resistance means that resistance developed in agricultural contexts can undermine the effectiveness of insecticides in health-related vector control, complicating efforts to manage mosquito-borne diseases [135].

Cross-resistance occurs when resistance to one category of insecticide leads to resistance to another category with a similar mechanism of action [136]. In the context of insecticide application in non-health sectors, such cross-resistance may develop when *A. aegypti* mosquitoes are exposed to agricultural insecticides containing active ingredients identical to those used in vector control [137]. For example, research in North Sumatra demonstrated that mosquitoes exposed to organophosphate insecticides in agricultural settings had resistance to the same class of organophosphates used in dengue management programs [138]. This situation reduced the efficacy of insecticide applications in the region, contributing to an increase in dengue cases during the epidemic [139]. This phenomenon illustrates that insecticide use in agricultural and

forestry sectors can significantly impact the effectiveness of vector control strategies in public health [135,138].

A major challenge in the non-health sector is the inadequate enforcement of strict regulations regarding insecticide use, while the health sector typically enforces stringent regulations with clear guidelines on dosage, application frequency, and active ingredient rotation to prevent resistance [140]. In agriculture and forestry, regulatory enforcement is often weak, leading to the improper application of insecticides at incorrect dosages or with excessive frequency. This accelerates the process of natural selection and promotes the development of resistance [140].

Research in West Kalimantan indicated that insecticide application on plantations often did not adhere to recommended standards, with farmers using higher doses than necessary to control crop pests [141]. This not only increased production costs but also accelerated the development of resistance in local mosquito populations, thereby reducing the efficacy of insecticides in health vector control programs [136]. The use of insecticides in the non-health sector has serious implications for the success of vector control programs in Indonesia [47]. The growing prevalence of cross-resistance in agriculture and forestry may diminish the effectiveness of insecticides used to control *A. aegypti* mosquito populations, subsequently increasing the risk of disease transmission, such as dengue [137]. An integrated strategy between the health and non-health sectors is essential to mitigate this adverse effect [46]. This strategy could involve refining regulatory policies and enhancing surveillance of insecticide use in the agricultural and forestry sectors, alongside increasing farmers' understanding of the importance of adhering to recognized insecticide application norms [124]. Additionally, promoting the adoption of environmentally sound pest management practices, such as biological controls or crop rotation, can reduce reliance on synthetic chemical insecticides [46,124].

The use of insecticides outside medical contexts, particularly in agriculture and forestry, has notably contributed to the rise of insecticide resistance in *A. aegypti* mosquitoes across Indonesia [31]. Cross-resistance in this context may undermine the effectiveness of insecticides in public health vector control programs, posing a significant challenge to disease control efforts such as those aimed at dengue [142]. To address these challenges, it is critical to implement strengthened regulatory frameworks, improved oversight mechanisms, and a more sustainable approach to pest management within the agricultural and forestry sectors [143].

***Aedes aegypti* resistance detection methods**

Detection and surveillance of insecticide resistance in *A. aegypti* mosquitoes are essential in addressing mosquito-borne diseases such as DHF, chikungunya, and Zika [87]. A study demonstrated a reduction in mosquito susceptibility to various insecticides, indicating the emergence of resistance [144]. As a result, regular detection and monitoring of resistance are crucial [144]. The primary methodologies employed include biological assays (bioassays) and biochemical-molecular assays, which enable the prompt identification of resistance and contribute to the development of effective control strategies [145]. Timely monitoring facilitates early detection of resistance, enabling rapid intervention and mitigating the spread of resistance [145].

Biological test (bioassay)

The WHO developed a bioassay methodology to detect resistance in disease vector insects, particularly *A. aegypti* mosquitoes [145]. These bioassays can be categorized into two primary types based on the methods employed: dose-dependent and time-dependent [145]. In the dose-dependent bioassay, mosquitoes are exposed to varying concentrations of insecticides to determine the dosage that causes mortality in 50% or 90% of the population (LD₅₀ or LD₉₀) [145]. This approach is effective for assessing resistance levels across a broad population, though it may demonstrate reduced specificity and requires a larger sample size of mosquitoes [88]. In contrast, time-dependent bioassays offer greater specificity and sensitivity in detecting resistance compared to dose-dependent methods [74]. This technique involves exposing mosquitoes to a constant insecticide concentration, with exposure time recorded to evaluate mortality rates. The

development of this method has facilitated resistance testing by requiring fewer insect samples [146].

Biochemical and molecular tests

In conjunction with bioassays, biochemical and molecular analyses have been employed to identify insecticide resistance [91]. Both approaches offer notable advantages in terms of sensitivity and specificity, and they require fewer samples compared to bioassays [145]. The objective of biochemical evaluations is to identify resistance mechanisms at the enzyme level [91]. To illustrate, biochemical tests can detect elevated activity of detoxifying enzymes, such as esterase, GST, or monooxygenase, which are associated with insecticide resistance [91]. Although various biochemical tests exist to detect specific resistance mechanisms, none currently detect changes in resistance mechanisms involving sodium and gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) receptors [147]. Molecular assays serve as complementary tools for identifying resistance at the genetic level [148]. Using molecular methods, such as polymerase chain reaction (PCR), it becomes possible to identify specific organs that have undergone mutations, either within the insecticide receptor or the enzyme responsible for insecticide detoxification [149]. These tests provide valuable insights into the cross-resistance spectrum, resistance maps of insect populations, and which insecticides remain effective [150].

Identifying and monitoring insecticide resistance are critical to ensuring that insecticides used in vector management continue to function effectively [88]. Early resistance surveillance allows for the identification of resistance patterns and the selection of insecticides still effective against specific insects [151]. Given the declining susceptibility to insecticides, resistance detection and monitoring should be integral components of vector control programs [88]. This resistance surveillance is not only a national priority but also a global necessity, although its implementation remains incomplete [152].

Despite insecticide resistance becoming a global issue, the implementation of comprehensive resistance surveillance faces numerous challenges [153]. For instance, malaria vectors have developed resistance to all currently available insecticides [154], highlighting the urgent need for improved detection and monitoring. Addressing these challenges requires international collaboration and capacity building to perform resistance testing across regions, utilizing bioassays and biochemical-molecular methods to detect resistance in *A. aegypti*. This approach is a crucial step in combating insecticide resistance [87]. By employing appropriate methodologies, essential data can be gathered to develop effective control strategies, ensuring the long-term success of vector control efforts and enabling early detection and mitigation of insecticide resistance before it becomes a major public health threat [91].

Potential of Indonesia's local plants as biolarvicides

Indonesia, with its rich biodiversity, is home to numerous indigenous plants that offer potential as natural biolarvicides for controlling *A. aegypti* mosquito populations [155]. These mosquitoes are vectors of serious diseases, including DHF, chikungunya, and Zika [91]. The use of local plants as biolarvicides presents an environmentally friendly alternative to synthetic chemical insecticides, which often contribute to the development of mosquito resistance [91]. Several indigenous plant species in Indonesia have been recognized for their larvicidal properties and have also demonstrated anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, anti-anxiety, antioxidant, and anti-nephritic effects [151]. This discussion explores the potential of various indigenous plants in Indonesia, drawing upon findings from previous research, including laboratory analyses and the identification of bioactive compounds within these species [91].

The larvicidal activity of various Indonesian plants against *A. aegypti* larvae, the primary vector of dengue fever, varies significantly, as indicated by the LC_{50} and LC_{90}/LC_{95} values [156]. For example, *Chlorella* sp. demonstrated moderate larvicidal potential, with an LC_{50} of 132.76 ppm and an LC_{90} of 547.19 ppm [157]. In contrast, *Sonneratia alba* had lower efficacy, with an LC_{50} of 1,265 ppm, though the absence of LC_{90} data prevents a direct comparison with other plants that have complete records [158].

Syzygium aromaticum demonstrated a low LC_{50} value of 0.005%, indicating potent larvicidal potential [159]. This aligns with the presence of eugenol in the leaves, a compound

known for its antimicrobial and insecticidal properties [159]. Eugenol, a significant component of clove oil, has shown strong insecticidal activity, with low concentrations already effective in causing larval mortality [156]. Similarly, *Tectona grandis* demonstrated promising larvicidal potential against *A. aegypti* mosquitoes [219]. Teak wood extract, containing the compound 2-methyl anthraquinone, demonstrated effectiveness as a larvicide, with an LC₅₀ of 7.99 µg/mL and an LC₉₀ of 11.87 µg/mL, indicating 50% and 90% larval mortality within 48 hours at these concentrations [156]. However, the direct application of teak wood powder was less effective, with an LC₅₀ of 849.30 µg/mL and an LC₉₀ of 1,051.10 µg/mL, requiring significantly higher concentrations to achieve comparable mortality rates [160]. Summary of the larvicidal potential of various Indonesian plants against *A. aegypti* is presented in **Table 3**.

Pinus merkusii demonstrated notable larvicidal activity, with an LC₅₀ of 68.4 ppm and an LC₉₀ of 125.7 ppm [179], although it was less effective than *S. aromaticum* [159]. This suggests that plants containing similar active compounds, such as flavonoids and saponins, do not always show uniform efficacy. Variations in the concentration of these compounds or the presence of additional synergistic substances may contribute to these differences in effectiveness [180].

The results of several studies also indicated that the solvent used in extraction could influence the outcomes. For instance, *Lavandula angustifolia* extracted with ethanol showed an LC₅₀ of 87 ppm [175], demonstrating better effectiveness compared to other plants extracted with solvents such as water or methanol (**Table 3**). Overall, an analysis of select findings revealed that various plant species held potential as larvicides. However, the efficacy of these species was significantly influenced by factors such as the specific plant species, the plant parts utilized, the solvent used, and the concentration of active compounds. Further research is necessary to determine the optimal formulation and the most effective application techniques for controlling *A. aegypti* larvae using natural products derived from these botanical sources.

Despite promising laboratory findings, scaling up plant-based biolarvicides for large-scale mosquito control presents several challenges [181]. Ensuring a stable supply of raw plant materials requires dedicated cultivation or sustainable harvesting practices [182]. Standardizing extraction methods and active compound concentrations is essential to maintain consistent efficacy, as variations in solvent types, plant parts, and environmental factors can affect larvicidal potency [183]. Additionally, cost-effectiveness must be assessed, as higher production costs may hinder widespread adoption despite the potential for reduced environmental impact and resistance risks [17].

Field trials evaluating the efficacy and stability of plant-based biolarvicides under natural conditions remain limited [184]. Environmental factors such as UV degradation, biodegradation, and organic matter in breeding sites may influence their effectiveness [185]. Optimizing formulations with UV stabilizers or slow-release mechanisms could enhance field applicability [186]. Integrating plant-based biolarvicides into vector control strategies, such as integrated vector management, may improve effectiveness while reducing reliance on chemical insecticides [187]. Further research is needed on large-scale production, formulation standardization, cost analysis, and field efficacy to assess the feasibility of incorporating Indonesian plant-based biolarvicides into national mosquito control programs [188]. Multidisciplinary collaboration among botanists, entomologists, chemists, and public health experts is essential to address these challenges and optimize plant-based biolarvicides as sustainable alternatives to chemical insecticides [189].

Table 3. Larvicidal potential of various Indonesian plants against *Aedes aegypti*

Plant	Parts	Solvent	Active compounds	LC ₅₀	LC ₉₀ /LC ₉₅
<i>Chlorella</i> sp. [157]	Microalgae	Chloroform	Hexadecanoic acid, oleic acid, and sitosterol	132.76 ppm	547.19 ppm
		Methanol		523.02 ppm	5,683.1 ppm
<i>Citrus sinensis</i> [161]	Skin	Fresh extracts	Tanin and flavonoid	1.15%	2.45%
<i>Citrus amblycarpa</i> [162]	Skin	Aquades	-	0.29%	1.07%*
Teak wood [160]	Trunk	Ethanol: the most awning	2-metilantrakuinon	7.99 µg/mL	11.87 µg/mL
<i>Citrus reticulata</i> [163]	Leaf	n-Hexane	Flavonoid, saponin, steroid, and terpenoid	-	4,810 ppm

Plant	Parts	Solvent	Active compounds	LC ₅₀	LC ₉₀ /LC ₉₅
<i>Pinus merkusii</i> [164]	Tree bark	Ethanol	Alkaloids, flavonoids, saponins, tannins, and terpenoids	68.4 ppm	125.7 ppm
<i>Citrus mitis</i> , <i>Citrus aurantifolia</i> , and <i>Citrus maxima</i> [165]	Leaf	Methanol	Flavonoid, saponin, steroid, and terpenoid	1,547 ppm 2,197 ppm 2,938 ppm	3,328 ppm 3,660 ppm 6,369 ppm
<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i> [166]	Leaf	Ethanol Methanol n-Hexane	Alkaloid, saponin, tannin, and flavonoids	1.07% 1.03% 0.30%	5.60% 1.62% 0.58%
<i>Papaya</i> sp. [167]	Leaf	Aquades	Alkaloids, flavonoid, saponin, steroid, and tannin	10.60%	18.3%
<i>Vitex cofassus</i> Reinw. [168]	Fruit	Methanol	-	0.51 µg/mL	1,921 µg/mL
<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i> [169]	Leaf	Stew	Phenolics, scopoletin, flavonoids, and limonin	-	6.60%
<i>Euphorbia tirucalli</i> L. [170]	Stem	Ethanol	Flavonoid, tannin, and steroid	171.48 ppm	2,363.9 ppm
<i>Jasminum sambac</i> and <i>Stenochlaena palustris</i> [171]	Flowers	Ethanol	-	0.49% 0.53%	0.63% 0.93%
<i>Averrhoa bilimbi</i> [172]	Fruit	Ethanol	Saponins, tannins, and terpenoids	977 ppm	1,380 ppm
<i>Allium sativum</i> L. [173]	Fruit	Aquades	-	0.24%	-
<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i> [174]	Leaf	Ethanol	-	3.76%	6.59%
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> [175]	Leaf	Ethanol	-	87 ppm	-
<i>Citrus aurantiifolia</i> and <i>Alpinia galanga</i> [176]	Leaf rhizome	Ethanol	-	650 ppm 30 ppm	1,100 ppm 90 ppm
<i>Artocarpus altilis</i> [177]	Leaf and flower combination	Ethanol	-	1,871 ppm 2,531 ppm 903 ppm	-
<i>Mangifera casturi</i> [178]	Leaf	Methanol	-	241 ppm	1,964 ppm
<i>Syzigium aromaticum</i> [159]	Leaf	Distillation	Eugenol acetate, methyl eugenol, b-caryophyllene, methyl eugenol, saponins, flavonoids, and larvicidal tannins	0.005%	-
<i>Sonneratia alba</i> [158]	Root	Methanol	Metil 2-hidroksi-eikosanoat; 4H-1-benzopiran-4-on, 3,5-dihidroxy-2-(4-hidroxy-3-metoksi-fenil)-7-metoksi	1,265 ppm	-

LC: lethal concentration

*LC₉₅ only; LC₉₀ value not determined or not available

Opportunities, challenges, and recommendations

Utilizing plants as biolarvicides in Indonesia to control dengue fever presents both opportunities and challenges [180]. One significant advantage is the natural and environmentally friendly nature of plant-based larvicides [190]. In contrast to synthetic insecticides, which may pose considerable risks to human health and ecological balance, plant-based solutions offer a safer alternative [17]. Indonesia's rich biodiversity provides a variety of plant species that have demonstrated larvicidal efficacy [188]. For example, *Nyctanthes arbor-tristis* (srigading) and *Centella asiatica* (brotowali) have been studied for their larvicidal properties, making them accessible for widespread use [191].

Another benefit is the local availability of these plant species, which reduces the reliance on imported materials and enhances accessibility for resource-constrained communities [190].

Moreover, plant-derived larvicides can offer economic advantages compared to synthetic alternatives, particularly for populations with limited financial resources [190]. However, several challenges exist in using plants as biolarvicides [192]. A major challenge is the variability in efficacy [193]. For instance, a study on plants from the Asteraceae family found that only 47.05% of the reviewed studies indicated potential as *A. aegypti* larvicides, suggesting low to moderate efficacy [194]. This variability underscores the need for further research to standardize the extraction and preparation of plant extracts, ensuring consistent effectiveness [195].

Standardizing plant-based larvicides is challenging due to variations in plant quality and extraction methods. Scaling up production to meet the demands during dengue outbreaks requires substantial investment and a tailored regulatory framework [180]. A comprehensive framework should ensure the safety and effectiveness of plant-based larvicides, include proper registration and validation procedures, and emphasize public education on their benefits and correct usage to enhance the role of these solutions in controlling dengue fever [151]. Raising public awareness about the use of plant-based larvicides is essential for promoting widespread acceptance and utilization [190]. While utilizing plants as biolarvicides in Indonesia presents a promising approach to controlling dengue fever, several challenges must be addressed to realize the full potential. These challenges include variability in efficacy, the need for standardization, scalability issues, regulatory hurdles, and public awareness. Overcoming these barriers enables Indonesia to effectively employ herbal larvicides in the battle against dengue fever. Recommendations for overcoming these challenges are outlined in **Table 4**.

Table 4. Strategies to address challenges in the development of Indonesian plant-based biolarvicides

Recommendation	Key action	Expected outcome
Policy support and regulatory framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop clear regulatory guidelines for the production, evaluation, and commercialization of plant-based biolarvicides. • Implement policies for registration and certification based on standardized efficacy and safety assessments. • Harmonize regulatory frameworks with WHO standards to ensure compliance and effectiveness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance standardization and safety assurance to ensure consistent efficacy and quality. • Facilitate broader acceptance and streamline regulatory approval processes.
Increased funding for research and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain funding from governmental and private sectors to support research on extraction methods, bioactive compounds, and field trials. • Develop research grant programs for universities and research institutions to advance biolarvicide development. • Implement tax incentives and subsidies to encourage private sector investment in plant-based biolarvicides. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expedite research and development to advance biolarvicide efficacy and application. • Strengthen innovation and expand production capacity for large-scale implementation.
Interdisciplinary collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster collaboration among botanists, entomologists, chemists, public health experts, and policymakers to enhance interdisciplinary research. • Establish a national task force to integrate expertise and coordinate efforts in biolarvicide development. • Strengthen partnerships with international organizations to support knowledge exchange and capacity building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated strategies for formulation, production, and regulatory compliance. • Strengthened technical expertise and collaborative resource utilization.

Implementing these recommendations enables Indonesia to utilize its biodiversity for developing sustainable plant-based biolarvicides while addressing challenges in standardization, regulatory approval, and large-scale application. Strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration and securing sufficient funding are essential for overcoming existing barriers and facilitating the integration of plant-based larvicides into national dengue control programs.

Conclusion

The rising resistance of *A. aegypti* to chemical insecticides poses a significant challenge in managing dengue fever in Indonesia. Resistance to insecticides such as permethrin, malathion, and temephos has been noted, especially in urban areas, highlighting the need for alternative vector control strategies. Local plants offer a promising solution as environmentally friendly biocides. Species like *S. aromaticum*, *T. grandis*, *P. merkusii*, *L. angustifolia*, and several *Citrus* types have shown larvicidal potential, influenced by bioactive compounds such as eugenol, flavonoids, and terpenoids. However, challenges persist, including variability in efficacy due to plant parts used, extraction methods, and compound concentrations. Standardization, scalability, and regulatory frameworks are essential for the widespread adoption of plant-based larvicides. Key strategies to address these challenges include policy reforms to establish clear regulatory guidelines, increased funding for research on extraction methods and field efficacy, and enhanced interdisciplinary collaboration among botanists, entomologists, chemists, and public health experts. Addressing these factors will optimize Indonesia's biodiversity for sustainable dengue vector control.

Ethics approval

Not required.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

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Underlying data

Derived data supporting the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author on request.

Declaration of artificial intelligence use

This study used artificial intelligence (AI) tool and methodology of which AI-based language model, ChatGPT, was employed in the language refinement (improving grammar, sentence structure, and readability of the manuscript). We confirm that all AI-assisted processes were critically reviewed by the authors to ensure the integrity and reliability of the results. The final decisions and interpretations presented in this article were solely made by the authors.

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