

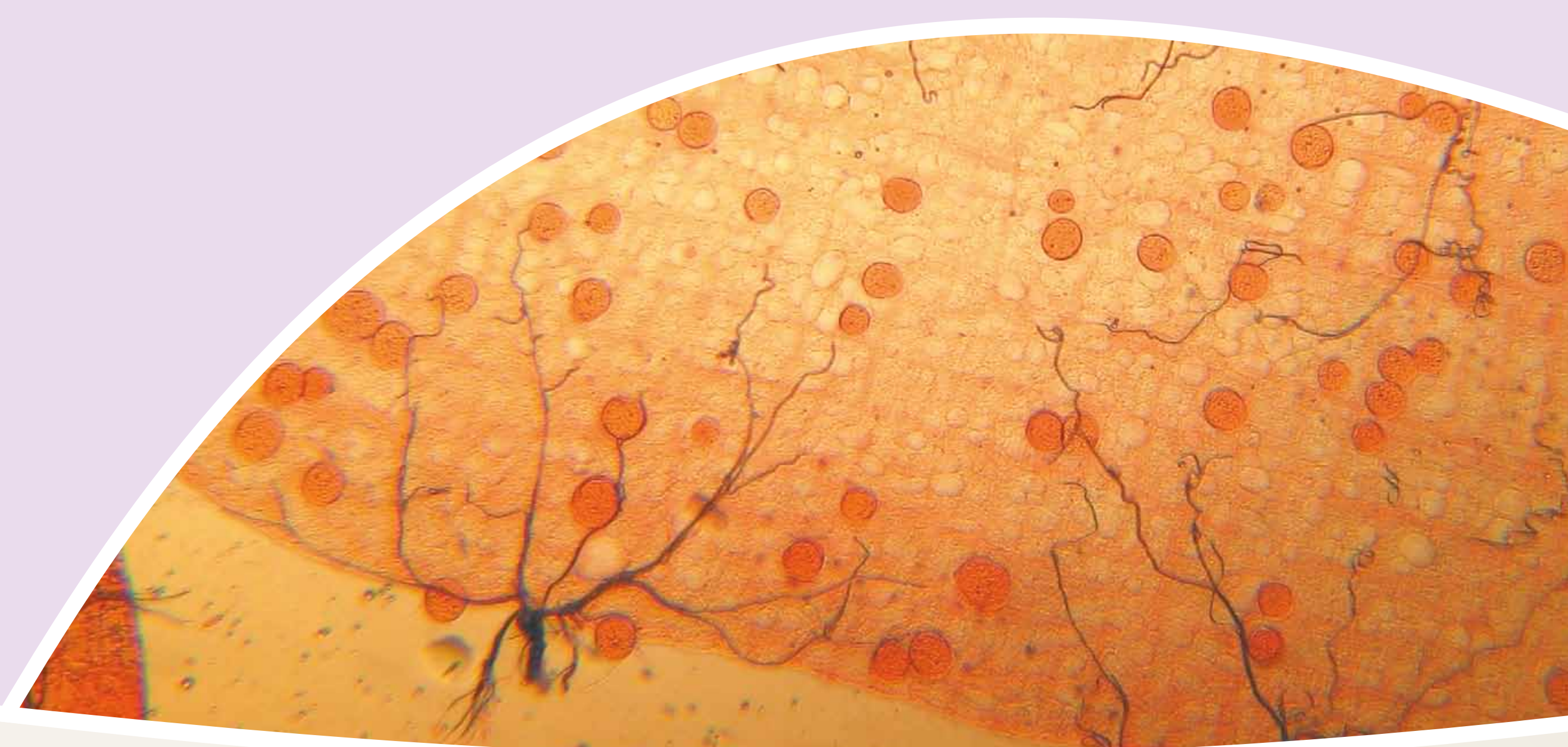
ANOPHELES MOSQUITOES

malaria

Biology of the vector

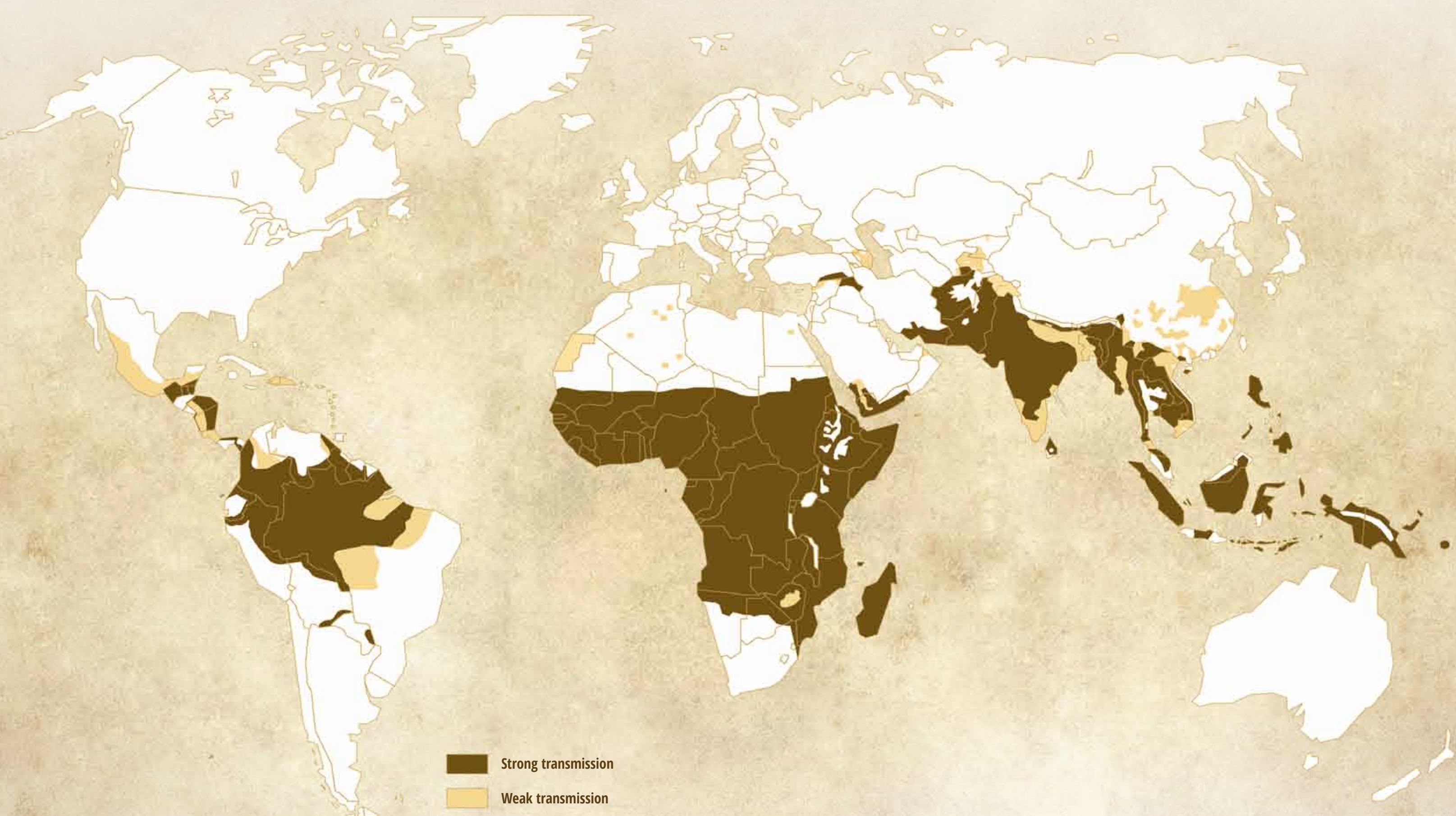
Only the **female** bites, and especially during the night.
This feeding on blood is essential **for the development of eggs**
but is not necessary for the survival of the female. Adults of both sexes
feed on sweet plant juices.

Name **Anopheles gambiae**
Length **6 mm**
Longevity as a biting insect **3 weeks**
Special feature **only older mosquitoes**
are vectors



Geographic distribution

Distribution of malaria

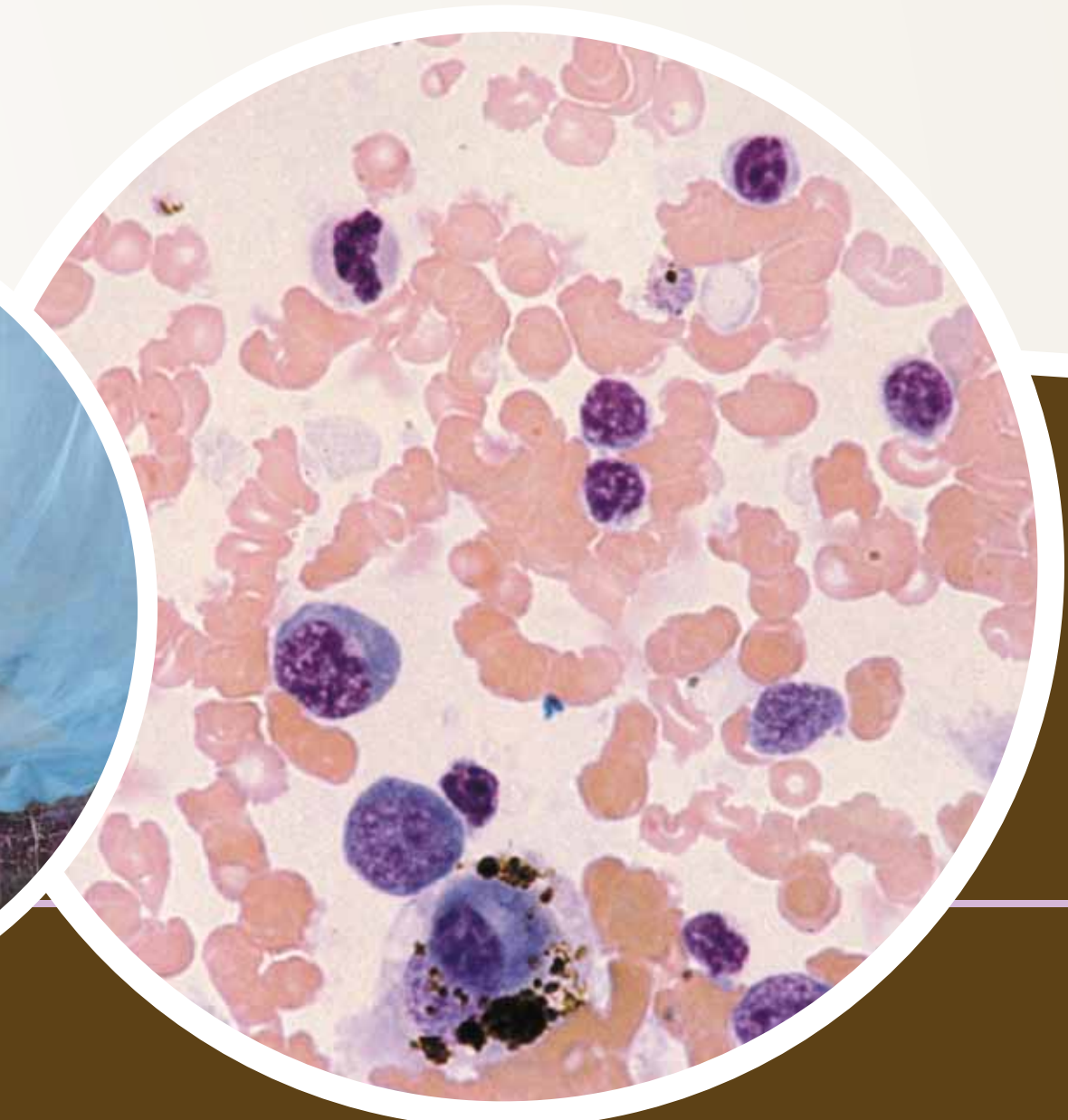


Anopheles are found **all over the world**
in zones including the cold temperate regions.
However, a few isolated zones **are free**
of them: New Caledonia,
the Seychelles and Polynesia.
Scientists are still discussing the reasons
for these exceptions.

Vector transmission

World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that malaria
killed **600,000 lives annually**.
Deaths are mainly in **tropical zones** and particularly concern
young children in Sub-Saharan Africa.
This potentially deadly disease is caused by single-cell parasites
belonging to the genus *Plasmodium*.

Mosquitoes become contaminated
by intake of the **blood** of an infected person.
They reinject the parasite in their **saliva** into other humans
during subsequent feeds. *Plasmodium* develops in the vector
for about **ten days** and so only old females can spread it.



Prevention and control

Drugs are available but in spite of research efforts there is still no vaccine.
Vector control is still the approach to be used:

- Apply **repellents** to the skin, wear **clothes that cover**
the body well and use **mosquito nets** impregnated with insecticide
- TKill adult mosquitoes using **insecticides**
- Dry out aquatic larval habitats
to prevent the development of new generations



1 feed on blood
= 200 eggs laid

