

European Mosquito Control Association gathers in Valencia

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In February, the 7th European Mosquito Control Association (EMCA) took place at the Complex Esportiu-Cultural de la Petxina, Valencia. This was the first time this kind of scientific and technical meeting had been held in Spain. The event gathered more than 160 experts in biology and control of mosquitoes from Europe, Africa, Asia and America.

At the opening session, a very interesting roundtable dealt with mosquito problems all around the world was held, with speeches from the presidents of the EMCA, AMCA and PAMCA associations.

Among the different subjects, I would like to underline a specific symposium about “Mosquito management in protected wetlands” with amazing studies made in France and Austria, where the close monitoring of the mosquito population and other aquatic associated organisms, showed the high effectiveness and selectivity of biological formulations that we currently have available in biocides

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market (principally, the ones based on the bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis var. israeliensis*).

Due to the current legal framework on any kind of activity in Protected Natural Areas, which is absolutely understandable by the pest control sector, the irrefutable results of these studies reinforce the fact that the correct management of harmful organisms, mosquitoes in this case - because they are potential vectors of many diseases - is not incompatible with the respect for the environment. In the

other hand, a second symposium about different “National Strategies in Mosquito Control”, made clear the necessity to promote research and to develop multi-variated control strategies. From these strategies we can underline the defence and specialization of aerial applications with selective larvicides, in vast wetlands, in the same way as has been achieved in Germany or Sweden cases. Spain cannot ignore this, due to the high range of water bodies potentially problematic in our territory, for example marshes or rice fields.



The rest of sessions made emphasis in how to deal with the antivectorial fight with the resurgence of local cases from some diseases associated with mosquito, like malaria, dengue or chikungunya in France, Croatia and Greece. New control techniques were reviewed, such as male sterilization in the case of *Aedes albopictus*. There were also assessments of new and promising formulations and the development of very useful Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for the planning of control and data collection works. Also discussed were different mosquito traps specially indicated for the establishment of surveillance programs.

To sum up, managers, technicians and scholars shared their rich experiences during four intense days. Workshop was closed with a technical visit in the Nature Reserve of L'Albufera where, among other activities, we could attend a demonstration on the resources that are being used to keep the mosquito popula-



tions under control. This included the use of a helicopter with DGPS system to select and keep control of any biological larvicidas action, and also the use of a drone equipped with thermic cameras that can detect any small potential mosquito breeding site, which makes possible to take monitoring actions that not affect the flora and fauna in natural reserves.

EMCA is a scientific and technical association that brings the most important

European scientists in mosquito control together and wants to spread the knowledge of the latest developments into this sector to reach a sustainable, rational and respectful control of mosquitoes. Nowadays, Germany, France and Spain are the three European countries with more members and from the association we encourage people, institutions and companies to take part of it and to identify with its values.