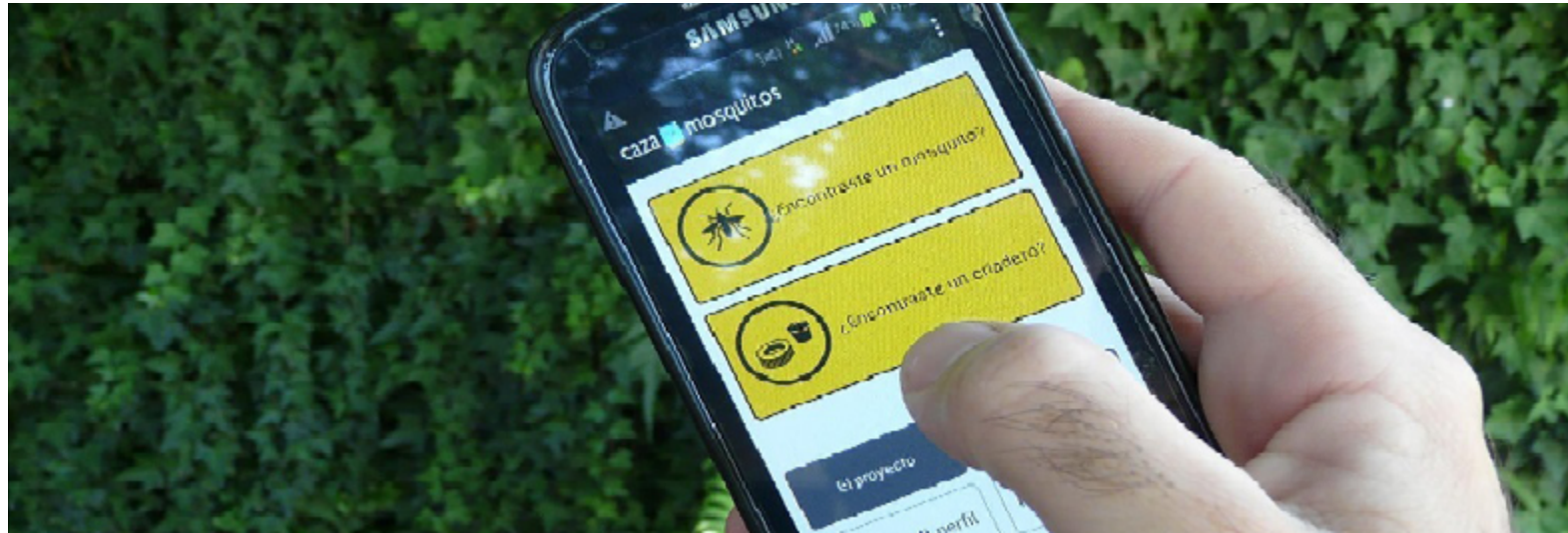




Caza Mosquitos (Mosquito Catchers)

Study of vector-borne diseases (transmitted by animals)



Objectives

- Study the distribution of mosquito vectors, including *Aedes aegypti*, a species transmitting dengue, Zika, chikungunya and yellow fever viruses
- Involve citizens in analyzing and questioning their environment, and lead them to take individual actions to contribute to the prevention of the spread of the insect vector

Description of citizen participation

Through the project's social media or by a digital, educational and free app, citizens are encouraged to collect data for the creation of a database to study the distribution of mosquito vectors, such as *Aedes aegypti*, among other significant species present in Argentina. It is also an opportunity for citizen scientists to receive information on actions to prevent mosquito-borne diseases and on other relevant aspects in connection with this issue.

Using this app, citizen scientists can report the presence of mosquitoes and potential breeding sites by submitting photographs and sharing the location detected by their mobile devices. A panel of expert reviewers helps users to identify mosquitoes and determine whether they are potential disease vectors. Then, citizen scientists are informed of such determination.

All information is included in the database created to determine mosquito distribution at a national level.

Type of citizen science project

Contributory project. It is designed by scientists, and citizens participate in data collection.

Participating parties.

- Institute of Limnology of La Plata (ILPLA).
- National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET, in Spanish).
- National University of La Plata (UNLP, in Spanish).

Status. In progress.

Time frame. 03/01/2017 – N/A

Scope of the initiative. Argentina (two or more provinces).

Geographic scope. Argentina.

Frequency of project execution. Uninterruptedly.

Project development members. It has been entirely developed by people with formal scientific training.

Action/s involving citizen participation Data collection.

Participation period. On a sustained basis.

Technological device/tool required.

- Cell phone
- App

Number of participants. Over 1001.

Recruitment methods. Through social media, news websites and science fairs

Replicability. It has not been replicated yet.

Scalability. It has not been upscaled yet.

Open access to data. All the information collected may be freely accessed on the project website.

Feedback. Participants receive their feedback through social media, by the app, or via e-mail, depending on the communication channel selected.

Linkage with state agency/government. The Ministry of Health of the Province of Buenos Aires showed interest in implementing it as a tool for the management of the dengue virus.

Institutional funds. Project's own funding sources.

Awards/distinctions.

- "Science, Technology and Innovation 2017" award granted by the Scientific Research Commission of the province of Buenos Aires
- Honey Bee Network Creativity & Inclusive Innovation Awards (HB-NCRIIA) 2020

Área/s (OCDE).

NATURAL SCIENCES / Biological Sciences
MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES / Basic Medicine



Project leaders.

- Cristian Di Battista, Institute of Limnology "Raúl A. Ringuelet" (ILPLA) / National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET)-National University of La Plata (UNLP).
- Fernando Garelli, Physics of Liquids and Biological Systems Institute (IFLYSIB) / CONICET-UNLP
- Joaquín Cocherio, Institute of Limnology "Raúl A. Ringuelet" (ILPLA) / CONICET-UNLP
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