Forecasting the numbers of disease vectors with deep learning

Ana Ceia-Hasse^{a,b,*}, Carla A. Sousa^a, Bruna R. Gouveia^{c,d}, César Capinha^b

^a Global Health and Tropical Medicine, Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine,

NOVA University of Lisbon, Rua da Junqueira 100, 1349-008 Lisbon, Portugal

^b Centre of Geographical Studies, Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning,

University of Lisbon, and Associated Laboratory TERRA, Rua Branca Edmée Marques,

1600-276 Lisbon, Portugal

^c Regional Health Direction, Government of Madeira, Rua 31 de Janeiro 54-55, 9054-

511 Funchal, Portugal

^d Interactive Technologies Institute - LARSyS, Caminho da Penteada, 9020-105 Funchal, Portugal

* Corresponding author (anaceiahasse@edu.ulisboa.pt)

Abstract

Arboviral diseases such as dengue, Zika, chikungunya or yellow fever are a worldwide concern. The abundance of vector species plays a key role in the emergence of outbreaks of these diseases, so forecasting these numbers is fundamental in preventive risk assessment. Here we describe and demonstrate a novel approach that uses state-of-the-art deep learning algorithms to forecast disease vector numbers. Unlike classical statistical and machine learning methods, deep learning models use time series data directly as predictors and identify the features that are most relevant from a predictive perspective. We demonstrate the application of this approach to predict

temporal trends in the number of *Aedes aegypti* mosquito eggs across Madeira Island for the period 2013 to 2019. Specifically, we apply the deep learning models to predict whether, in the following week, the number of *Ae. aegypti* eggs will remain unchanged, or whether it will increase or decrease, considering different percentages of change. We obtained high predictive accuracy for all years considered (mean AUC = 0.92 ± 0.05 sd). We also found that the preceding numbers of eggs is a highly informative predictor of future numbers. Linking our approach to disease transmission or importation models will contribute to operational, early warning systems of arboviral disease risk.

Keywords

Machine learning, mosquito, dengue, forecast, time series classification

1. Introduction

Arboviral diseases such as dengue, Zika, chikungunya or yellow fever are a worldwide concern, with large health, social and economic costs. More than half of the world's population is at risk of disease and economic costs are large, with the costs of dengue alone estimated at US\$ 9 billion/year (Mayer et al., 2017; Messina et al., 2019; Shepard et al., 2016). Such diseases are transmitted by mosquitoes of the genus *Aedes* whose distribution is expanding - and projected to expand further in the future - due to climate change and increased transportation and human mobility (Kraemer et al., 2019; Salami et al., 2020b; Santos et al., 2022). These species are now established in many regions of the world, including in several areas of Europe (Capinha et al., 2014; Oliveira et al., 2021), where outbreaks of *Aedes*-borne diseases occurred recently (Brady and Hay, 2019; Sousa et al., 2012). There are no widespread or effective vaccines or treatment for most of these diseases yet, and the spread of *Aedes* spp. calls for integrated

tools to predict their presence and number in space and time, to inform timely control initiatives.

Accurate forecasts of Aedes spp. numbers are critical to inform public health decision making and implement preventive measures. Since the abundance of vector species plays a key role in disease outbreak emergence (e.g., Jupille et al., 2016; Li et al., 2019; Messina et al., 2019), forecasting such numbers is essential for preventive risk assessment. Most forecasts of mosquito numbers are performed with "classical" statistical and machine learning models, such as generalized linear models sensu lato (e.g., generalized additive models, generalized linear mixed models). These models use tabular-type data (i.e., a one-to-one relationship between values of dependent and predictor variables), which implies that the temporal variation in the predictors must be discretized prior to the modelling. This is often performed by applying generic statistical functions (e.g., means or sums) across fixed temporal windows (e.g., weeks, months, years) (e.g., Cheng et al., 2020; da Cruz Ferreira et al., 2017; Li et al., 2019; Monaghan et al., 2019; Poh et al., 2019; Ripoche et al., 2019). Despite its widespread use, this approach it is likely sub-optimal in a high number of cases as there is no guarantee that the resulting set of predictors will be the most adequate from a predictive perspective. This sub-optimality concerns both the statistical functions used to summarize the data and the time scales represented. Recent studies have identified how even simple changes in these parameters can have a strong impact in the quality of the predictions (e.g., Poh et al., 2019).

Here we describe and demonstrate the application of a deep learning-based approach, as an alternative to the classical approaches (e.g., Cheng et al., 2020; da Cruz Ferreira et al., 2017; Li et al., 2019; Monaghan et al., 2019; Poh et al., 2019; Ripoche et al., 2019) for predicting disease vector numbers. We present a novel approach to forecast disease vector numbers that uses state-of-the-art deep learning algorithms and tools (Capinha et al., 2021; Van Kuppevelt et al., 2020). We apply it to predict temporal trends in *Aedes aegypti* mosquito egg numbers. Our major innovation, compared with the state of the art in the field, is that most forecasts of mosquito numbers are performed with "classical" statistical and machine learning models (e.g., Cheng et al., 2020; da Cruz Ferreira et al., 2017; Li et al., 2019; Monaghan et al., 2019; Poh et al., 2019; Ripoche et al., 2019). To our knowledge, this is the first time that time series classification with deep learning is used for modelling the variation of disease vector numbers.

Deep neural networks are artificial neural networks (ANN; Lek and Guégan, 1999; Olden et al., 2008) composed of a large number of trainable parameters (LeCun et al., 2015), which are able to perform complex tasks with high performance, such as computer vision and natural language processing but also image and sound data classification (Christin et al., 2019; LeCun et al., 2015). In the context of disease vector abundance prediction, a key difference of deep learning models over conventional approaches is that the former allow using time series directly as predictors and the relevance of the features found in these data is evaluated by the models themselves (Capinha et al., 2021; Fawaz et al., 2019). Importantly, this relevance (both in terms of the type of data transformation to perform and the temporal extent considered) is guided by the capacity of the models to accurately predict the dependent variable. In other words, deep learning models specifically aim at identifying the set of time series features that most accurately predict disease vector numbers, as opposed to conventional models, which rely on human expertise for this purpose.

As case study, we use the yellow fever mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) in the Madeira Island, Portugal. This species was first found on this island in 2005 (Margarita et al.,

2006) and from late 2012 to early 2013 it was responsible for an outbreak of dengue fever, the first ever in Madeira and the first recorded in Europe since 1927, which infected more than 2000 people (Lourenço and Recker, 2014; Sousa et al., 2012). Due to strong socio-economic relations with South America (namely Brazil and Venezuela), the importation of arbovirus from tropical regions has been considered highly probable (Lourenço and Recker, 2014; Seixas et al., 2019), making the occurrence of future outbreaks of this and other arboviruses possible (Lourenço and Recker, 2014). Because of this, the numbers of *Ae. aegypti* across the island have been closely monitored by local health authorities in recent years and are a key indicator of disease outbreak risk.

We describe and analyse a deep learning-based approach that provides accurate week-ahead forecasts of change in the numbers of *Ae. aegypti* in the Madeira Island. We use time series of the species abundance and of weather variables as predictors and integrate these into a standardized modelling workflow, which could be adapted to provide operational, real-time forecasts, and thus applied in early warning systems of disease risk.

2. Material and methods

2.1. Mosquito abundance data

Mosquito abundance data were made available by the Regional Health Direction of the Autonomous Region of Madeira (*Direção Regional da Saúde*; https://www.madeira.gov.pt/drs/), the regional health authority responsible for the entomological and epidemiological surveillance in the archipelago. These data originated from 140 ovitraps placed in different locations across the Madeira Island, including air- and seaports, schools, health units and other public and private places, from 2013 to 2019 (Fig 1). This network of traps is monitored weekly, recording the number of eggs of *Ae. aegypti* in each trap.

2.2. Environmental predictors

As environmental predictors of change in the number of eggs of *Ae. aegypti*, we considered the following weather variables at a daily resolution: mean (*Tmean*), maximum (*Tmax*) and minimum (*Tmin*) temperature, mean (*RHmean*), maximum (*RHmax*) and minimum (*RHmin*) relative humidity, and accumulated precipitation (*Pre*). These variables were selected because of their known role in driving population dynamics of mosquito species (e.g., Cheng et al., 2020; da Cruz Ferreira et al., 2017; Li et al., 2019; Monaghan et al., 2019; Ripoche et al., 2019). Data for these variables was obtained from local weather stations and made available by the Portuguese Institute for Sea and Atmosphere (*Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera*; www.ipma.pt).

2.3. Forecasting changes in the number of eggs of Aedes aegypti

We aimed at forecasting relative changes in the numbers of *Ae. aegypti* eggs instead of their absolute numbers. This a common strategy in risk assessment frameworks (e.g., Carbajo and Vezzani, 2015; Tsuda et al., 2016; Vanwambeke et al., 2011). Accordingly, for each trap and observation week, we classified the variation in the number of eggs into one of 7 classes: no change in the number of eggs; decrease between 1 and 25%; decrease between >25 and 50%; decrease >50%; increase between 1 and 25%; increase between >25 and 50%, and increase >50%.

In addition to the weather predictors (see above), we also used the preceding values of egg numbers as predictor of the response variable. To match with the daily

resolution of the weather predictors, we replicated the weekly number of eggs 7 times (i.e., one per each day of the corresponding week).

All predictors represented the six-month period that preceded the week of the observation. In other words, the classes of change in number of eggs were modelled as a function of variation in the predictor variables up to 6-months into the past.

This kind of modelling exercise, where time series data is used to predict one of two or more classes, falls withing the scope of time series classification (Capinha et al., 2021; Keogh and Kasetty, 2003). Several deep learning architectures can be used for time series classification, differing in the type of layers they have and on how information flows between them (Fawaz et al., 2019). Because we have no *a priori* reason to expect that a specific deep learning architecture will perform better than others, we evaluated a large number of models having distinct architectures and parametrizations (the so called 'automated machine learning' or 'autoML' approach; Guyon et al., 2019; Van Kuppevelt et al., 2020).

For this purpose, we use *mcfly* (Van Kuppevelt et al., 2020), a *python* library that allows testing four deep learning architectures frequently used for time series classification: Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), which have been mostly used for image pattern recognition (Brodrick et al., 2019; Wäldchen and Mäder, 2018) but that are also suited for time series classification (Zhao et al., 2017); Deep Convolutional Long Short-Term Memory networks (DeepConvLSTM), combining convolutional with LSTM recurrent neural networks (Chung et al., 2014), which were developed for sequence-type input data such as time series (Fawaz et al., 2019); Residual Networks (ResNet), which were proposed for image recognition (He et al., 2019); and Inception Time networks (InceptionTime), which are a very recent type of architecture proposed

explicitly for time series classification (Fawaz et al., 2019). For more details on these modelling architectures see Capinha et al. (2021) and Van Kuppevelt et al. (2020).

2.4. Data partition

The 'autoML' workflow in *mcfly* requires using multiple partitions from the full data set of response and predictor variables. Here we followed the partition scheme of Capinha et al. (2021), consisting of four partitions that are used at the various stages of model selection and training, and a fifth partition that is used to assess the predictive performance of the fully trained ('final') model. To ensure independence between the data used for model training and the data used for model testing, we used the data of each year (i.e., 2013 to 2019) separately for model testing (partition '*T*'), and the data for the remaining years for model training. The aim of this procedure is to mimic an operational setting where data available for previous years is used to train a model that will be employed in the real-time forecasting of changes in the number of eggs for the coming week.

The data used for model training and selection were randomly partitioned into: data for training candidate models (25% of the data; At); data for validating candidate models (50%; Av); data for training the selected candidate model (75%; Bt = At + Av); validation data to determine the optimal number of epochs to train the selected candidate model (25%; Bv). Data partition was performed in R with package *dismo* (Hijmans et al., 2017; R Core Team, 2020).

2.5. Model selection procedure

The model selection procedure was performed as follows (Capinha et al., 2021; Van Kuppevelt et al., 2020): we randomly generated 5 models for each of the four available deep-ANN architecture types (20 models in total) and trained each one with a small subset of the training data (data partition At) for 4 epochs (an "epoch" corresponds to the complete training dataset being passed forward and backward across the network one time; Capinha et al., 2021). The accuracy of candidate models, as provided by *mcfly* (i.e., the "proportion of cases correctly classified"), was then compared using a left-out validation data set (data partition Av) and the model with the highest performance was selected for training on the full training data (data partition Bt; Bt = At + Av) for up to 30 epochs.

We identified the optimal number of training epochs using data partition Bv. A too low number of epochs may result in underfitting of the model and thus in reduced predictive performance (since important patterns in the data may be missed), while an excessive number of epochs may result in overfitting of the model, which will reduce its generality and ability to classify new data. The predictive performance of the model at each training epoch each was assessed by measuring the area under the receiving operating characteristic curve (AUC), which is usually used in ecology and is not influenced by differences in the prevalence of classes (Dyderski et al., 2018). AUC was computed within R, using package *cvAUC* (LeDell et al., 2014; R Core Team, 2020).

Finally, the performance of the model trained with the optimal number of epochs was evaluated using a test data set (data set T), using AUC as the accuracy metric as well. This procedure was repeated so that each year was used as test data (as partition 'T').

2.6. Importance of predictors

We assessed the importance of each predictor variable by performing simulations with randomized test data, where in each simulation one predictor variable was randomized at a time, while keeping the others unchanged (Molnar, 2020), and comparing the AUC from such simulations with the AUC from the original models. We did this for each different test year. We prepared the randomized data in R (using function *sample* from package *base*) (R Core Team, 2020).

See Appendix A for example data and code for implementing data importation and modelling procedures. For more details on the deep learning techniques we used please see Capinha et al. (2021) and Van Kuppevelt et al. (2020).

3. Results

Regarding the percentage of observations per class of variation in the number of eggs between subsequent weeks, the class with more observations was "no change", in all the years (table 1); these correspond mainly to cases where the number of eggs was continuously zero. The second and third most represented classes correspond to the largest (>50%) decrease and increase (respectively), and the classes the least represented correspond to the lower decreases or increases in the number of eggs (i.e., 1 to 25% and >25 to 50%; table 1).

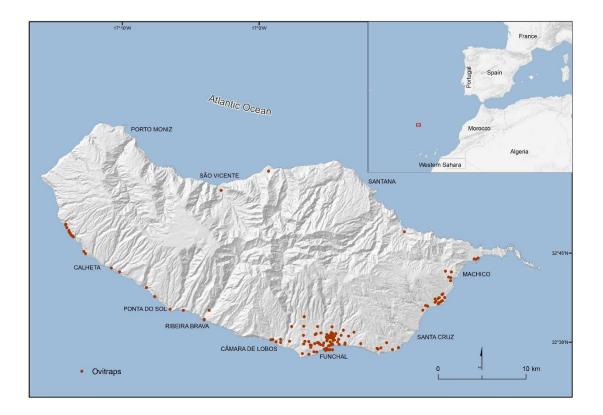


Fig 1. Location of the ovitraps in the Madeira island.

 Table 1. Percentage of observations per class of change in number of eggs between

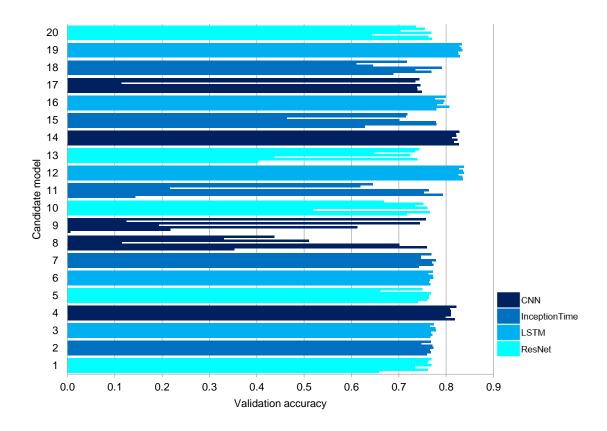
 subsequent weeks in each year. "inc." stands for increase and "dec." stands for

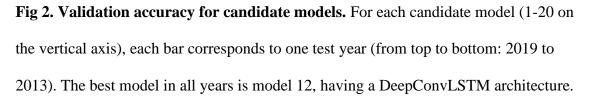
 decrease in the number of eggs.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
no change	81.7	78.0	77.6	74.7	74.9	79.4	75.3
inc. 1-25%	0.7	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.8
inc. 25-50%	0.8	1.0	1.4	1.2	1.6	1.0	0.9
inc. >50%	7.4	8.9	9.1	10.4	10.3	8.4	10.4
dec. 1-25%	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.7
dec. 25-50%	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.5
dec. >50%	8.5	10.1	9.8	11.5	11.4	9.6	11.4

Concerning the performance of the candidate models, the best validation accuracies were achieved by model 12 in all the years (accuracy = 0.833 ± 0.005 ; mean of years ± sd) (Fig 2), a model having a Deep Convolutional Long Short-Term Memory (DeepConvLSTM) architecture.

Model 19, also with a DeepConvLSTM architecture had high validation accuracies too (accuracy = 0.829 ± 0.003 ; mean of years \pm sd), followed by model 14, with a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) architecture and validation accuracy of 0.821 ± 0.005 (mean of years \pm sd).





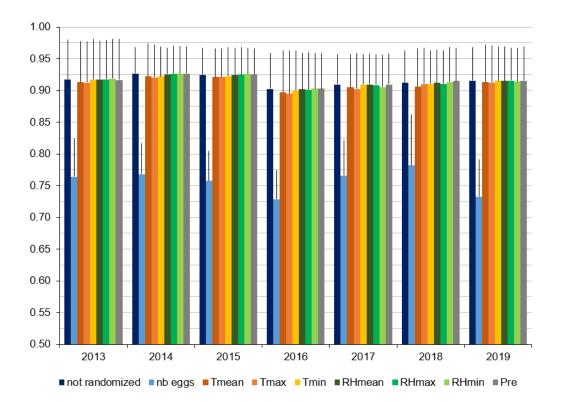
After full training and identification of the optimal number of training epochs, this model delivered an excellent average predictive performance for all years (mean $AUC = 0.92 \pm 0.05$ sd). Only in a few cases the performance went below this threshold, namely for class "increase >50%" where performance was fair (i.e., AUC from 0.7 to

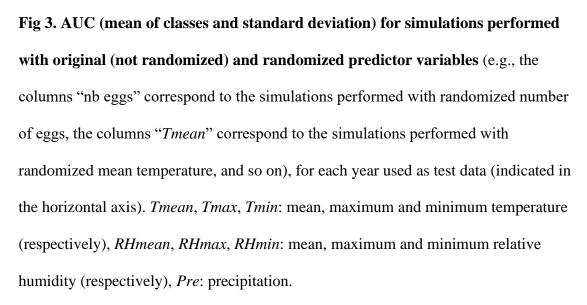
0.8) for years 2013 and 2016, and good (AUC 0.8 to 0.9) for the remaining years, and for class "increase 25-50%" for year 2017, where the model performance was good (AUC = 0.88) (table 2).

 Table 2. AUC obtained in simulations with the original models: mean (and standard deviation) of classes and AUC per class. The year used for testing model performance is given in the column headers. "inc." stands for increase, "dec." stands for decrease.

		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
	mean	0.92	0.93	0.92	0.90	0.91	0.91	0.92
	(sd)	(0.06)	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.06)	(0.05)	(0.05)	(0.05)
class	no change	0.92	0.94	0.94	0.91	0.93	0.92	0.92
	inc. 1-25%	0.95	0.94	0.93	0.91	0.92	0.92	0.94
	inc. 25-50%	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.90	0.88	0.92	0.94
	inc. >50%	0.78	0.83	0.83	0.78	0.81	0.80	0.80
	dec. 1-25%	0.95	0.96	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.93	0.95
	dec. 25-50%	0.96	0.94	0.94	0.93	0.95	0.96	0.93
	dec. >50%	0.94	0.95	0.96	0.94	0.93	0.94	0.93

Concerning the importance of variables, AUC decreased most notoriously when the predictor 'number of eggs' was randomized, a result observed for all test years (Fig 3). Slight decreases in performance are also apparent when temperature was randomized (either mean, maximum or minimum) for most test years.





4. Discussion

Obtaining accurate predictions of disease vector distribution and numbers is critical to inform decision making and implement timely and effective control actions, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 13 of ending vector-borne disease epidemics and strengthening early warning capacity of global health risks (UN General Assembly, 2015).

In this work we used a deep learning approach to forecast the numbers of *Ae*. *aegypti* in Madeira island. To our knowledge, this is the first time that time series classification with deep learning is used for predicting variation of disease vector numbers. We also showed that the predictive accuracy of the approach was high, with the cross-class performances being good to excellent for all years considered.

We provide the code and data files we used as appendix for those who which to replicate our study. Validation was conducted by assessing the performance of the models using seven different data sets and time periods independently, providing independent validation and demonstrating the advantages of the approach, given the high predictive accuracy obtained.

We selected the candidate model with the highest validation accuracy in all years as the final model to train with the full training data set and obtain the predictions. However, other models also achieved high validation accuracies. Future work could include testing whether making predictions with an ensemble of such models would increase the robustness of predictions. However, for the purpose of demonstrating our approach we considered appropriate to use only the model with the highest validation accuracy.

Our results are supportive of a wider testing and application of deep learning for predicting disease vector numbers. A defining feature of this approach is that it allows using raw time series data as predictors, being able to automatically identify relevant information such as thresholds and lag effects (Fawaz et al., 2019; Ryo et al., 2019) that could otherwise be missed when using classical approaches, which rely on temporally aggregated (and thus simplified) variables (Capinha et al., 2021). This capacity of deep

learning models can be an important asset in face of the growing availability of time series data, namely from mosquito monitoring programs and environmental sensors (e.g., satellite imagery and meteorological stations; Reichstein et al., 2019), that can be directly fed into the models (Capinha et al., 2021).

We also identified that the number of eggs in the previous weeks was the most important predictor of variation in number of eggs, in agreement with previous studies (da Cruz Ferreira et al., 2017), and which suggests this variable has a high intrinsic predictability (Pennekamp et al., 2019). The relative importance of individual predictors representing other factors (temperature, relative humidity, and precipitation) was lower, despite an apparent relevance being also detected for temperature-related time series. We note that in the case of temperature and relative humidity, this apparently lower relevance may also result from correlations between the three measurements used to represent these factors (i.e., minimum, mean and maximum values). In other words, the models may be obtaining relevant information from time series representing a different measurement of the same factor.

The approach presented here did not consider spatial structure explicitly. Given that the previous number of eggs had high explanatory power, the past number of eggs in nearby traps as predictors could also be included. We could also consider a leave one trap out method of validation, to see if the developed models are general spatially.

Our models use tabular-type data and thus the temporal variation in the predictors was discretized prior to modelling. Although not the objective of our work, there are statistical models that can estimate lags between time series and disease outcomes, allowing the exploration of temporal lags without specifying lags a priori (e.g., Davis et al., 2018; Smith et al., 2020). Additionaly, longer time series could also

be considered as this has been reported for infectious disease predictions (e.g., Smith et al., 2020).

Deep learning is a promising avenue but there is room for improvement and limitations to be mentioned and addressed in future studies. On one hand, the approach presented can be adapted for other specific classification tasks, and model generation and selection in *mcfly* can be fine-tuned. For example, the selection of candidate models can be adjusted to generate only one type of model architecture (Capinha et al., 2021; Van Kuppevelt et al., 2020).

Also, deep learning approaches could be compared with the more classical statistical and machine learning approaches to assess how model performances differ between methods. Our study design could be complemented with a comparison with a simple baseline model and with "classical" statistical and machine learning models, such as generalized linear models *sensu lato* (e.g., Li et al., 2019; Poh et al., 2019; Ripoche et al., 2019). However, our objective was to show our approach works, which is clearly demonstrated by the high predictive accuracy obtained. Furthermore, the ecological interpretability of deep learning models and their outputs should be improved (Reichstein et al., 2019). This is being now tackled by the field of "explainable artificial intelligence" to understand how the models work and explain their outcomes (Shickel and Rashidi, 2020; Siddiqui et al., 2019).

Despite these challenges, we presented a well performing modelling framework that can be used by non-experts in deep learning (Capinha et al., 2021; Van Kuppevelt et al., 2020) to predict disease vector numbers. Our work has a clear public health relevance. Integrating this approach into existing disease transmission or importation models (Lieberthal and Gardner, 2021; Salami et al., 2020b, 2020a) or with diseaserelated Internet search activity (Aiken et al., 2020; Yang et al., 2017) and using high

resolution environmental data will likely contribute to improve operational, early warning systems of disease risk and guide the implementation of mosquito control measures.

Acknowledgements

We thank the personnel of the Regional Health Direction of the Autonomous Region of Madeira (*Direção Regional da Saúde*) involved in egg collection and analysis and the Portuguese Institute for Sea and Atmosphere (*Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera*), namely Dr. Victor Prior, for the weather data. Maurício Santos drew Fig 1. ACH, CAS and CC were supported by Portuguese National Funds through Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (ACH and CAS: PTDC/SAU-PUB/30089/2017 and GHTM-UID/Multi/04413/2020; CC: CEECIND/02037/2017, UIDB/00295/2020 and UIDP/00295/2020). The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

References

- Aiken, E.L., McGough, S.F., Majumder, M.S., Wachtel, G., Nguyen, A.T., Viboud, C.,
 Santillana, M., 2020. Real-time estimation of disease activity in emerging
 outbreaks using internet search information. PLOS Computational Biology 16, 1–
 19. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1008117
- Brady, O.J., Hay, S.I., 2019. The first local cases of Zika virus in Europe. The Lancet 394, 1991–1992. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(19)32790-4
- Brodrick, P.G., Davies, A.B., Asner, G.P., 2019. Uncovering Ecological Patterns with Convolutional Neural Networks. Trends in Ecology & Evolution 34, 734–745. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2019.03.006

- Capinha, C., Ceia-Hasse, A., Kramer, A.M., Meijer, C., 2021. Deep learning for supervised classification of temporal data in ecology. Ecological Informatics 61, 101252. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoinf.2021.101252
- Capinha, C., Rocha, J., Sousa, C.A., 2014. Macroclimate Determines the Global Range Limit of Aedes aegypti. EcoHealth 11, 420–428. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10393-014-0918-y
- Carbajo, A.E., Vezzani, D., 2015. Waiting for chikungunya fever in Argentina: spatiotemporal risk maps. Memórias do Instituto Oswaldo Cruz 110, 259–262.
- Cheng, J., Bambrick, H., Yakob, L., Devine, G., Frentiu, F.D., Toan, D.T.T., Thai, P.Q., Xu, Z., Hu, W., 2020. Heatwaves and dengue outbreaks in Hanoi, Vietnam: New evidence on early warning. PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases 14, 1–15. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0007997
- Christin, S., Hervet, É., Lecomte, N., 2019. Applications for deep learning in ecology. Methods in Ecology and Evolution 10, 1632–1644. https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-210X.13256
- Chung, J., Gulcehre, C., Cho, K., Bengio, Y., 2014. Empirical Evaluation of Gated Recurrent Neural Networks on Sequence Modeling. https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.1412.3555
- da Cruz Ferreira, D.A., Degener, C.M., de Almeida Marques-Toledo, C., Bendati,
 M.M., Fetzer, L.O., Teixeira, C.P., Eiras, Á.E., 2017. Meteorological variables and mosquito monitoring are good predictors for infestation trends of Aedes aegypti,
 the vector of dengue, chikungunya and Zika. Parasites & Vectors 10, 78.
 https://doi.org/10.1186/s13071-017-2025-8
- Davis, J.K., Vincent, G.P., Hildreth, M.B., Kightlinger, L., Carlson, C., Wimberly,M.C., 2018. Improving the prediction of arbovirus outbreaks: A comparison of

climate-driven models for West Nile virus in an endemic region of the United States. Acta Tropica 185, 242–250.

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actatropica.2018.04.028

- Dyderski, M.K., Paź, S., Frelich, L.E., Jagodziński, A.M., 2018. How much does climate change threaten European forest tree species distributions? Global Change Biology 24, 1150–1163. https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.13925
- Fawaz, H.I., Forestier, G., Weber, J., Idoumghar, L., Muller, P.-A., 2019. Deep learning for time series classification: a review. Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery 33, 917–963. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10618-019-00619-1
- Guyon, I., Sun-Hosoya, L., Boullé, M., Escalante, H.J., Escalera, S., Liu, Z., Jajetic, D., Ray, B., Saeed, M., Sebag, M., Statnikov, A., Tu, W.-W., Viegas, E., 2019.
 Analysis of the AutoML Challenge Series 2015–2018, in: Hutter, F., Kotthoff, L., Vanschoren, J. (Eds.), Automated Machine Learning: Methods, Systems,
 Challenges. Springer International Publishing, Cham, pp. 177–219.
 https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-05318-5_10
- He, K., Zhang, X., Ren, S., Sun, J., 2016. Deep Residual Learning for Image Recognition, in: 2016 IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR). pp. 770–778. https://doi.org/10.1109/CVPR.2016.90
- Hijmans, R.J., Phillips, S., Leathwick, J., Elith, J., 2017. dismo: Species distribution modeling. R package version 1, 1–1.
- Jupille, H., Seixas, G., Mousson, L., Sousa, C.A., Failloux, A.-B., 2016. Zika Virus, a New Threat for Europe? PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases 10, 1–8. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0004901

- Keogh, E., Kasetty, S., 2003. On the Need for Time Series Data Mining Benchmarks: A Survey and Empirical Demonstration. Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery 7, 349–371. https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1024988512476
- Kraemer, M.U.G., Reiner, R.C., Brady, O.J., Messina, J.P., Gilbert, M., Pigott, D.M.,
 Yi, D., Johnson, K., Earl, L., Marczak, L.B., Shirude, S., Davis Weaver, N.,
 Bisanzio, D., Perkins, T.A., Lai, S., Lu, X., Jones, P., Coelho, G.E., Carvalho,
 R.G., Van Bortel, W., Marsboom, C., Hendrickx, G., Schaffner, F., Moore, C.G.,
 Nax, H.H., Bengtsson, L., Wetter, E., Tatem, A.J., Brownstein, J.S., Smith, D.L.,
 Lambrechts, L., Cauchemez, S., Linard, C., Faria, N.R., Pybus, O.G., Scott, T.W.,
 Liu, Q., Yu, H., Wint, G.R.W., Hay, S.I., Golding, N., 2019. Past and future spread
 of the arbovirus vectors Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus. Nature Microbiology
 4, 854–863. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41564-019-0376-y
- LeCun, Y., Bengio, Y., Hinton, G., 2015. Deep learning. Nature 521, 436–444. https://doi.org/10.1038/nature14539
- LeDell, E., Petersen, M., van der Laan, M., 2014. cvAUC: cross-validated area under the ROC curve confidence intervals. R package version 1.
- Lek, S., Guégan, J.F., 1999. Artificial neural networks as a tool in ecological modelling, an introduction. Ecological Modelling 120, 65–73. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0304-3800(99)00092-7
- Li, R., Xu, L., Bjørnstad, O.N., Liu, K., Song, T., Chen, A., Xu, B., Liu, Q., Stenseth, N.C., 2019. Climate-driven variation in mosquito density predicts the spatiotemporal dynamics of dengue. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 116, 3624–3629. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1806094116
- Lieberthal, B., Gardner, A.M., 2021. Connectivity, reproduction number, and mobility interact to determine communities' epidemiological superspreader potential in a

metapopulation network. PLOS Computational Biology 17, 1–22. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1008674

- Lourenço, J., Recker, M., 2014. The 2012 Madeira Dengue Outbreak: Epidemiological Determinants and Future Epidemic Potential. PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases 8, 1–11. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0003083
- Margarita, Y., Grácio, A., Lencastre, I., Silva, A., Novo, M., Sousa, C., 2006. First record of Aedes (Stegomyia) aegypti (Linnaeus, 1762)(Diptera, Culicidae) in Madeira Island-Portugal. Acta Parasitológica Portuguesa 13, 59–61.
- Mayer, S.V., Tesh, R.B., Vasilakis, N., 2017. The emergence of arthropod-borne viral diseases: A global prospective on dengue, chikungunya and zika fevers. Acta Tropica 166, 155–163. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.actatropica.2016.11.020
- Messina, J.P., Brady, O.J., Golding, N., Kraemer, M.U.G., Wint, G.R.W., Ray, S.E.,
 Pigott, D.M., Shearer, F.M., Johnson, K., Earl, L., Marczak, L.B., Shirude, S.,
 Davis Weaver, N., Gilbert, M., Velayudhan, R., Jones, P., Jaenisch, T., Scott,
 T.W., Reiner, R.C., Hay, S.I., 2019. The current and future global distribution and
 population at risk of dengue. Nature Microbiology 4, 1508–1515.
 https://doi.org/10.1038/s41564-019-0476-8
- Molnar, C., 2020. Interpretable machine learning. Lulu. com.
- Monaghan, A.J., Schmidt, C.A., Hayden, M.H., Smith, K.A., Reiskind, M.H., Cabell,
 R., Ernst, K.C., 2019. A Simple Model to Predict the Potential Abundance of
 Aedes aegypti Mosquitoes One Month in Advance. The American Journal of
 Tropical Medicine and Hygiene 100, 434–437. https://doi.org/10.4269/ajtmh.170860

- Olden, J.D., Lawler, J.J., Poff, N.L., 2008. Machine Learning Methods Without Tears: A Primer for Ecologists. The Quarterly Review of Biology 83, 171–193. https://doi.org/10.1086/587826
- Oliveira, S., Rocha, J., Sousa, C.A., Capinha, C., 2021. Wide and increasing suitability for Aedes albopictus in Europe is congruent across distribution models. Scientific Reports 11, 9916. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-89096-5
- Pennekamp, F., Iles, A.C., Garland, J., Brennan, G., Brose, U., Gaedke, U., Jacob, U., Kratina, P., Matthews, B., Munch, S., Novak, M., Palamara, G.M., Rall, B.C., Rosenbaum, B., Tabi, A., Ward, C., Williams, R., Ye, H., Petchey, O.L., 2019. The intrinsic predictability of ecological time series and its potential to guide forecasting. Ecological Monographs 89, e01359. https://doi.org/10.1002/ecm.1359
- Poh, K.C., Chaves, L.F., Reyna-Nava, M., Roberts, C.M., Fredregill, C., Bueno, R.,
 Debboun, M., Hamer, G.L., 2019. The influence of weather and weather
 variability on mosquito abundance and infection with West Nile virus in Harris
 County, Texas, USA. Science of The Total Environment 675, 260–272.
 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2019.04.109
- R Core Team, 2020. R Core Team: A language and environment for statistical computing R Foundation for Statistical Computing. Vienna, Austria.
- Reichstein, M., Camps-Valls, G., Stevens, B., Jung, M., Denzler, J., Carvalhais, N., Prabhat, 2019. Deep learning and process understanding for data-driven Earth system science. Nature 566, 195–204. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-019-0912-1
- Ripoche, M., Campagna, C., Ludwig, A., Ogden, N.H., Leighton, P.A., 2019. Shortterm Forecasting of Daily Abundance of West Nile Virus Vectors Culex pipiensrestuans (Diptera: Culicidae) and Aedes vexans Based on Weather Conditions in

Southern Québec (Canada). Journal of Medical Entomology 56, 859–872. https://doi.org/10.1093/jme/tjz002

Ryo, M., Aguilar-Trigueros, C.A., Pinek, L., Muller, L.A.H., Rillig, M.C., 2019. Basic Principles of Temporal Dynamics. Trends in Ecology & Evolution 34, 723–733. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2019.03.007

Salami, D., Capinha, C., Sousa, C.A., Martins, M. do R.O., Lord, C., 2020a. Simulation models of dengue transmission in Funchal, Madeira Island: Influence of seasonality. PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases 14, 1–21. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0008679

- Salami, D., Sousa, C.A., Martins, M. do R.O., Capinha, C., 2020b. Predicting dengue importation into Europe, using machine learning and model-agnostic methods. Scientific Reports 10, 9689. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-66650-1
- Santos, J.M., Capinha, C., Rocha, J., Sousa, C.A., 2022. The current and future distribution of the yellow fever mosquito (Aedes aegypti) on Madeira Island.
 PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases 16, 1–19.

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0010715

- Seixas, G., Salgueiro, P., Bronzato-Badial, A., Gonçalves, Y., Reyes-Lugo, M.,
 Gordicho, V., Ribolla, P., Viveiros, B., Silva, A.C., Pinto, J., Sousa, C.A., 2019.
 Origin and expansion of the mosquito Aedes aegypti in Madeira Island (Portugal).
 Scientific Reports 9, 2241. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-018-38373-x
- Shepard, D.S., Undurraga, E.A., Halasa, Y.A., Stanaway, J.D., 2016. The global economic burden of dengue: a systematic analysis. The Lancet Infectious Diseases 16, 935–941. https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(16)00146-8

- Shickel, B., Rashidi, P., 2020. Sequential interpretability: methods, applications, and future direction for understanding deep learning models in the context of sequential data. arXiv preprint arXiv:2004.12524.
- Siddiqui, S.A., Mercier, D., Munir, M., Dengel, A., Ahmed, S., 2019. TSViz:
 Demystification of Deep Learning Models for Time-Series Analysis. IEEE Access
 7, 67027–67040. https://doi.org/10.1109/ACCESS.2019.2912823
- Smith, K.H., Tyre, A.J., Hamik, J., Hayes, M.J., Zhou, Y., Dai, L., 2020. Using Climate to Explain and Predict West Nile Virus Risk in Nebraska. GeoHealth 4, e2020GH000244. https://doi.org/10.1029/2020GH000244
- Sousa, C., Clairouin, M., Seixas, G., Viveiros, B., Novo, M., Silva, A., Escoval, M.,
 Economopoulou, A., 2012. Ongoing outbreak of dengue type 1 in the Autonomous
 Region of Madeira, Portugal: preliminary report. Eurosurveillance 17, 20333.
- Tsuda, Y., Maekawa, Y., Ogawa, K., Itokawa, K., Komagata, O., Sasaki, T., Isawa, H.,
 Tomita, T., Sawabe, K., 2016. Biting Density and Distribution of *Aedes albopictus*during the September 2014 Outbreak of Dengue Fever in Yoyogi Park and the
 Vicinity of Tokyo Metropolis, Japan. Japanese Journal of Infectious Diseases 69,
 1–5. https://doi.org/10.7883/yoken.JJID.2014.576
- UN General Assembly, 2015. Transforming our world: The 2030 agenda for sustainable development (A/RES/70/1). United Nations.
- Van Kuppevelt, D., Meijer, C., Huber, F., Ploeg, A. van der, Georgievska, S., Hees, V.T. van, 2020. Mcfly: Automated deep learning on time series. SoftwareX 12, 100548. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.softx.2020.100548
- Vanwambeke, S.O., Bennett, S.N., Kapan, D.D., 2011. Spatially disaggregated disease transmission risk: land cover, land use and risk of dengue transmission on the

island of Oahu. Tropical Medicine & International Health 16, 174–185. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-3156.2010.02671.x

- Wäldchen, J., Mäder, P., 2018. Machine learning for image based species identification. Methods in Ecology and Evolution 9, 2216–2225. https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-210X.13075
- Yang, S., Kou, S.C., Lu, F., Brownstein, J.S., Brooke, N., Santillana, M., 2017.
 Advances in using Internet searches to track dengue. PLOS Computational Biology 13, 1–14. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1005607
- Zhao, B., Lu, H., Chen, S., Liu, J., Wu, D., 2017. Convolutional neural networks for time series classification. Journal of Systems Engineering and Electronics 28, 162– 169. https://doi.org/10.21629/JSEE.2017.01.18

Appendix A. Supplementary material

S1 Text. Code for implementing data importation and modelling procedures.

- S1 Data. At classes eggs. Data file with egg classes from At partition.
- S1 Data. At nb eggs. Data file with number of eggs from At partition.
- S1 Data. At prec. Data file with precipitation from At partition.
- **S1 Data.** At rhmax. Data file with maximum relative humidity from *At* partition.
- **S1 Data.** At rhmean. Data file with mean relative humidity from *At* partition.
- **S1 Data.** At rhmin. Data file with minimum relative humidity from *At* partition.
- S1 Data. At tmax. Data file with maximum temperature from At partition.
- S1 Data. At tmean. Data file with mean temperature from *At* partition.
- S1 Data. At tmin. Data file with minimum temperature from At partition.

S2 Data. Av classes eggs. Data file with egg classes from Av partition.

S2 Data. Av nb eggs. Data file with number of eggs from Av partition.

S2 Data. Av prec. Data file with precipitation from Av partition.

S2 Data. Av rhmax. Data file with maximum relative humidity from Av partition.

S2 Data. Av rhmean. Data file with mean relative humidity from Av partition.

S2 Data. Av rhmin. Data file with minimum relative humidity from Av partition.

S2 Data. Av tmax. Data file with maximum temperature from *Av* partition.

S2 Data. Av tmean. Data file with mean temperature from Av partition.

S2 Data. Av tmin. Data file with minimum temperature from Av partition.

S3 Data. Bt classes eggs. Data file with egg classes from *Bt* partition.

S3 Data. Bt nb eggs. Data file with number of eggs from *Bt* partition.

S3 Data. Bt prec. Data file with precipitation from *Bt* partition.

S3 Data. Bt rhmax. Data file with maximum relative humidity from *Bt* partition.

S3 Data. Bt rhmean. Data file with mean relative humidity from *Bt* partition.

S3 Data. Bt rhmin. Data file with minimum relative humidity from *Bt* partition.

S3 Data. Bt tmax. Data file with maximum temperature from *Bt* partition.

S3 Data. Bt tmean. Data file with mean temperature from *Bt* partition.

S3 Data. Bt tmin. Data file with minimum temperature from *Bt* partition.

S4 Data. Bv classes eggs. Data file with egg classes from *Bv* partition.

S4 Data. Bv nb eggs. Data file with number of eggs from *Bv* partition.

S4 Data. Bv prec. Data file with precipitation from *Bv* partition.

S4 Data. Bv rhmax. Data file with maximum relative humidity from *Bv* partition.

S4 Data. Bv rhmean. Data file with mean relative humidity from *Bv* partition.

S4 Data. Bv rhmin. Data file with minimum relative humidity from *Bv* partition.

S4 Data. Bv tmax. Data file with maximum temperature from *Bv* partition.

S4 Data. By tmean. Data file with mean temperature from *Bv* partition.

S4 Data. Bv tmin. Data file with minimum temperature from *Bv* partition.

S5 Data. T classes eggs. Data file with egg classes from T partition.

S5 Data. T nb eggs. Data file with number of eggs from T partition.

S5 Data. T prec. Data file with precipitation from *T* partition.

S5 Data. T rhmax. Data file with maximum relative humidity from *T* partition.

S5 Data. T rhmean. Data file with mean relative humidity from *T* partition.

S5 Data. T rhmin. Data file with minimum relative humidity from T partition.

S5 Data. T tmax. Data file with maximum temperature from *T* partition.

S5 Data. T tmean. Data file with mean temperature from *T* partition.

S5 Data. T tmin. Data file with minimum temperature from *T* partition.

S6 Data. T nb eggs random. Data file with randomized number of eggs from *T* partition.

S6 Data. T prec random. Data file with randomized precipitation from T partition.

S6 Data. T rhmax random. Data file with randomized maximum relative humidity from *T* partition.

S6 Data. T rhmean random. Data file with randomized mean relative humidity from *T* partition.

S6 Data. T rhmin random. Data file with randomized minimum relative humidity from *T* partition.

S6 Data. T tmax random. Data file with randomized maximum temperature from *T* partition.

S6 Data. T tmean random. Data file with randomized mean temperature from *T*

partition.

S6 Data. T tmin random. Data file with randomized minimum temperature from *T*

partition.