Title (117 characters): **Transmission of West Nile and other temperate mosquito-borne**

viruses peaks at intermediate environmental temperatures

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21   **Keywords**: *Culex pipiens*, *Culex tarsalis*, *Culex quinquefasciatus*, West Nile virus, Western

22   Equine Encephalitis virus, Eastern Equine encephalitis virus, St. Louis Encephalitis virus, Rift

23   Valley Fever virus, Sindbis virus, Ockelbo disease, mosquito-borne disease, infectious disease,

24   temperature

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ABSTRACT (150 WORDS = LIMIT)

The temperature-dependence of many important mosquito-borne diseases has never been

quantified. These relationships are critical for understanding current distributions and predicting

future shifts from climate change. We used trait-based models to characterize temperature-

dependent transmission of 10 vector–pathogen pairs of mosquitoes (*Culex pipiens*, *Cx.*

quinquefascsiatus, *Cx. tarsalis*, and others) and viruses (West Nile, Eastern and Western Equine

Encephalitis, St. Louis Encephalitis, Sindbis, and Rift Valley Fever viruses), most with

substantial transmission in temperate regions. Transmission is optimized at intermediate

temperatures (23–26ºC) and often has wider thermal breadths (due to cooler lower thermal

limits) compared to pathogens with predominately tropical distributions (in previous studies).

The incidence of human West Nile virus cases across US counties responded unimodally to

average summer temperature and peaked at 24ºC, matching model-predicted optima (24–25ºC).

Climate warming will likely shift transmission of these diseases, increasing it in cooler locations

while decreasing it in warmer locations.

INTRODUCTION

Temperature is a key driver of transmission of mosquito-borne diseases because the mosquitoes and pathogens are ectotherms whose physiology and life histories depend strongly on environmental temperature [1–8]. These temperature-dependent traits drive the biological processes required for transmission. For example, temperature-dependent fecundity, development, and mortality of mosquitoes determine whether vectors are present in sufficient numbers for transmission. Temperature also affects the mosquito biting rate on hosts and probability of becoming infectious.

Mechanistic models based on these traits and guided by principles of thermal biology predict that the thermal response of transmission is unimodal: transmission peaks at intermediate temperatures and declines at extreme cold and hot temperatures [2–12]. This unimodal response is predicted consistently across mosquito-borne diseases [2–8] and supported by independent empirical evidence for positive relationships between temperature and human cases in many settings [5,13–16], but negative relationships at extremely high temperatures in other studies [2,16–19]. Accordingly, we expect increasing temperatures due to climate change to shift disease distributions geographically and seasonally, as warming increases transmission in cooler settings but decreases it in settings near or above the optimal temperature for transmission [20–23]. Thus, mechanistic models have provided a powerful and general rule describing how temperature affects the transmission of mosquito-borne disease. However, thermal responses vary among mosquito and pathogen species and drive important differences in how predicted transmission responds to temperature, including the specific temperatures of the optimum and thermal limits for each vector–pathogen pair [2–7]. We currently lack a framework to describe or predict this variation among vectors and pathogens.

Filling this gap requires comparing mechanistic, temperature-dependent transmission

models for many vector–pathogen pairs. However, models that incorporate all relevant traits are

not yet available for many important pairs for several reasons. First, the number of relevant

vector–pathogen pairs is large because many mosquitoes transmit multiple pathogens and many

pathogens are transmitted by multiple vectors. Second, empirical data are costly to produce, and

existing data are often insufficient because experiments or data reporting were not designed for

this purpose. Here, we address these challenges by systematically compiling data and building

models for understudied mosquito-borne disease systems, including important pathogens with

substantial transmission in temperate areas like West Nile virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine

Encephalitis virus (EEEV). Accurately characterizing the thermal limits and optima for these

systems is critical for understanding where and when temperature currently promotes or

suppresses transmission and where and when climate change will increase, decrease, or have

minimal effects on transmission.

In this study, we model the effects of temperature on an overlapping suite of widespread,

important mosquito vectors and viruses that currently lack complete temperature-dependent

models. These viruses include: West Nile virus (WNV), St. Louis Encephalitis virus (SLEV),

Eastern and Western Equine Encephalitis viruses (EEEV and WEEV), Sindbis virus (SINV), and

Rift Valley fever virus (RVFV) [24–28] (summarized in Table 1). All but RVFV sustain

substantial transmission in temperate regions [24–28]. We selected this group because many of

the viruses share common vector species and several vector species transmit multiple viruses

(Table 1, Fig 1). All the viruses cause febrile illness and severe disease symptoms, including

long-term arthralgia and neuroinvasive syndromes with a substantial risk of mortality in severe

cases [24–28]. Since invading North America in 1999, WNV is now distributed worldwide

[21,24] and is the most common mosquito-borne disease in the US, Canada, and Europe. SLEV,

EEEV, and WEEV occur in the Western hemisphere (Table 1), with cases in North, Central, and

South America [28–30]. For EEEV, the North American strains are genetically distinct and more

virulent than the Central and South American strains [28]. An unusually large outbreak of EEEV

in the United States last year (2019) has yielded incidence four times higher than average (31

cases, resulting in 9 fatalities) and brought renewed attention to this disease [31]. SINV occurs

across Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia, with substantial transmission in northern Europe and

southern Africa [26,28]. RVFV originated in eastern Africa and now also occurs across Africa

and the Middle East [27]. These pathogens primarily circulate and amplify in wild bird reservoir

hosts (except RVFV, which primarily circulates in livestock). For all six viruses, humans are

dead-end or unimportant reservoir hosts [28,32], in contrast to pathogens like malaria, dengue

virus, yellow fever virus, and Ross River virus, which sustain infection cycles between humans

and mosquitoes [28,33,34]. Most transmission of RVFV to humans occurs through direct contact

with infected livestock (that are infected by mosquitoes), and to a lesser extent via the mosquito-

borne transmission from infected vectors [32].

Vector / Pathogen	WNV	SLEV	EEEV	WEEV	SINV	RVFV
Cx. pipiens	▨ (hatched)				▨ (hatched)	▩ (grey)
Cx. quinquefasciatus	PDR only	▩ (grey)				▩ (grey)
Cx. tarsalis	▨ (hatched)	▨ (hatched)		▨ (hatched)		
Cx. univittatus	▨ (hatched)				▩ (grey)	
Cx. torrentium						
Cx. theileri					▩ (grey)	
Cx. poicilipes						▩ (grey)
Cx. tritaeniorhynchus					▩ (grey)	▩ (grey)
Ae. taeniorhynchus					▨ (hatched)	▨ (hatched)
Ae. triseratus			▨ (hatched)			
Ae. solicitans			▩ (grey)			
Ae. vexans			▩ (grey)			▩ (grey)
Ae. mcintoshi						▩ (grey)
Ae. ochraceus						▩ (grey)
Cq. perturbans					▩ (grey)	
Cu. melanura			▩ (grey)			

Figure 1: Viruses transmitted by a community of vectors. The six viruses in this study (WNV = West Nile virus, SLEV = St. Louis Encephalitis virus, EEEV = Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus, WEEV = Western Equine Encephalitis virus, SINV = Sindbis virus, RVFV = Rift Valley Fever virus) and the *Culex* (*Cx.*), *Aedes* (*Ae.*), *Coquillettidia* (*Cq.*), and *Culiseta* (*Cs.*) vectors that are important for sustaining transmission to humans. Grey shading indicates an important vector-virus pair; hatching indicates available temperature-dependent data for infection traits (parasite development rate [*PDR*] and vector competence [*bc* or *b* and *c*]). The importance of each vector for transmission may vary over the geographic range of the virus. Infection data were available for SINV and RVFV in *Ae. taeniorhynchus,* although this North American mosquito does not occur in the endemic range of these pathogens. Data sources: [25–27,32,76].

TABLE 1:

Virus (*genus*)	Primary vector spp.	Geographic range	Presentation & mortality	Epidemiology & Ecology
West Nile virus (WNV, *Flavivirus*)	*Cx. pipiens, Cx. quinquefasciatus, Cx. tarsalis*	Globally distributed	Febrile illness and encephalitis. 10% mortality in neuro-invasive cases. Long-term physical & cognitive disabilities.	The most common mosquito-borne disease in North America. Since invading in 1999, 7 million estimated infections, 22,999 neuro-invasive cases, and 2,163 deaths in US; 5,614 reported cases in Canada. Typically 100-300 cases annually in Europe, but over 1500 in 2018. Poor surveillance in Africa, but seroprevalence ~80% in some areas. Birds are main reservoir/amplification hosts.
St. Louis Encephalitis virus (SLEV, *Flavivirus*)	*Cx. quinquefasciatus, Cx. tarsalis*	Western hemisphere; western, midwestern, & southern US	Encephalitis. 5-15% mortality in diagnosed cases.	92 cases and 6 deaths recorded in US from 2009-2018. Birds are main reservoir/amplification hosts.
Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEEV, *Alphavirus*)	*Ae. triseriatus, Cs. melanura*	Western hemisphere; eastern & midwestern US	Febrile illness and encephalitis. 33% mortality in diagnosed cases. Long-term cognitive disabilities.	73 cases and 30 deaths recorded in US from 2009-2018. Birds are main reservoir/amplification hosts.
Western Equine Encephalitis virus (WEEV, *Alphavirus*)	*Cx. tarsalis*	Western hemisphere; western & midwestern US	Febrile illness and encephalitis. Low mortality, except in infants.	The CDC does not report WEEV infection. Birds are main reservoir/amplification hosts. WEEV is derived from a recombinant event between the ancestors of EEEV and SINV.
Sindbis virus (SINV, *Alphavirus*), also called Pogosta, Ockelbo, & Karelian Fever	*Cx. torrentium, Cx. pipiens, Cx. univittatus*	Europe, Africa, Asia & Australia, primarily northern Europe & southern Africa	Febrile illness, rash, and joint pain. No mortality, but long-term disability.	Poor surveillance except in Finland, where annual incidence is 2–26 per 100,000 people and seroprevalence can reach ~40%. Birds are main reservoir/amplification hosts. Long-distance migratory birds may spread the virus between temperate zones in Northern and Southern hemispheres.
Rift Valley Fever virus (RVFV, *Phlebovirus*)	*Ae. mcintoshi, Ae. ochraceus, Ae. vexans, Cx. pipiens, Cx. poicilipes, Cx. theileri* and many more	Africa & the Middle East	Febrile illness and encephalitis. <1% mortality in total cases. 50% mortality in hemorrhagic cases, permanent blindness in 50% of ocular cases (<2% of cases).	Livestock are main reservoir/amplification hosts, and suffer mortality and abortion after being infected by mosquitoes. Most transmission to humans occurs via direct contact with infected livestock. Vertical transmission in vectors (via dormant eggs) can initiate epidemics. In eastern and southern Africa, there are large epidemics every 5-15 years driven by rainfall and blooms of *Ae. spp.* from low-lying flooded areas known as *dambos*.

Table 1: Properties of six viruses transmitted by an overlapping network of mosquito

vectors. Sources: WNV [24,25,140,147–150]; SLEV [25,29]; EEEV [25,30]; WEEV [25]; SINV

[26]; RVFV [27,32,76,151].

We primarily focus on *Culex pipiens*, *Cx. quinquefasciatus*, and *Cx. tarsalis*, well-studied

species that are important vectors for many of the viruses and for which appropriate temperature-

dependent data exist for nearly all traits relevant to transmission. Although the closely-related

Cx. pipiens and *Cx. quinquefasciatus* overlap in their home ranges in Africa, they have expanded

into distinct regions globally (Fig 2) [35]. *Cx. pipiens* occurs in higher-latitude temperate areas in

the Northern and Southern hemisphere, while *Cx. quinquefasciatus* occurs in lower-latitude

temperate and tropical areas (Fig 2A). By contrast, *Cx. tarsalis* is limited to North America but

spans the tropical-temperate gradient (Fig 2B). In this system of shared pathogens and vectors

with distinct geographical distributions, we also test the hypothesis that differences in thermal

performance underlie variation in vector and pathogen geographic distributions, since temperate

environments have cooler temperatures and a broader range of temperatures than tropical

environments. We also include thermal responses from other relevant vector or laboratory model

species in some models: *Aedes taeniorhynchus* (SINV and RVFV), *Ae. triseriatus* (EEEV), *Ae.*

vexans (RVFV), *Cx. theileri* (RVFV), and *Culiseta melanura* (EEEV). Additionally, we compare

our results to previously published models [2–4,6,7] for transmission of more tropical diseases

by the following vectors: *Ae. aegypti*, *Ae. albopictus*, *Anopheles* spp., and *Cx. annulirostris*.

Figure 2: *Culex* spp. vectors of West Nile and other viruses have distinct but overlapping geographic distributions. The geographic distribution of the primary vectors of West Nile virus: (A) *Culex pipiens* (dark grey) and *Cx. quinquefasciatus* (red), adapted from [35,83]; (B) *Cx. tarsalis* (blue), northern boundary from [84], southern boundary based on data from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility. Figure created by Michelle Evans for this paper.

We use a mechanistic approach to characterize the effects of temperature on vector–virus pairs in this network using the thermal responses of traits that drive transmission. Specifically, we use experimental data to measure the thermal responses of the following traits: vector survival, biting rate, fecundity, development rate, competence for acquiring and transmitting each virus, and the extrinsic incubation rate of the virus within the vector. We ask: (1) Do these vectors have qualitatively similar trait thermal responses to each other, and to vectors from

previous studies? (2) Is transmission of disease by these vectors predicted to be optimized and

limited at similar temperatures, compared to each other and to other mosquito-borne diseases in

previous studies? (3) How do the thermal responses of transmission vary across vectors that

transmit the same virus and across viruses that share a vector? (4) Which traits limit transmission

at low, intermediate, and high temperatures? Broadly, we hypothesize that variation in thermal

responses is predictable based on vectors' and viruses' geographic ranges.

Mechanistic models allow us to incorporate nonlinear effects of temperature on multiple

traits, measured in controlled laboratory experiments across a wide thermal gradient, to

understand their combined effect on disease transmission. This approach is critical when making

predictions for future climate regimes because thermal responses are almost always nonlinear,

and therefore current temperature–transmission relationships may not extend into temperatures

beyond those currently observed in the field. We use Bayesian inference to quantify uncertainty

and to rigorously incorporate prior knowledge of mosquito thermal physiology to constrain

uncertainty when data are sparse [3]. The mechanistic modeling approach also provides an

independently-generated, *a priori* prediction for the relationship between temperature and

transmission to test with observational field data on human cases, allowing us to connect data

across scales, from individual-level laboratory experiments, to population-level patterns of

disease transmission, to climate-driven geographic variation across populations. Using this

approach, we build mechanistic models for 10 vector–virus pairs by estimating thermal

responses of the traits that drive transmission. We validate the models using observations of

human cases in the US over space (county-level) and time (month-of-onset). The validation

focuses on WNV because it is the most common of the diseases we investigated and has the most

complete temperature-dependent trait data.

 MODEL OVERVIEW

To understand the effect of temperature on transmission and to compare the responses

across vector and virus species, we used R_0—the basic reproduction number [36]. We use R_0 as a

static, relative metric of temperature suitability for transmission that incorporates the nonlinear

effects of temperature on multiple traits [1,8,37] and is comparable across systems, rather than

focusing on its more traditional interpretation as a threshold for disease invasion into a

susceptible population. Temperature variation creates additional nonlinear effects on

transmission [38–41] that are not well-captured by R_0, [10,36,42–44] but could be incorporated

in future work by integrating the thermal performance curves fit here over the observed

temperature regime.

The basic R_0 model (eq. 1) [37] includes the following traits that depend on temperature

(*T*): adult mosquito mortality (*μ*, the inverse of lifespan [*lf*]), biting rate (*a*, proportional to the

inverse of the gonotrophic [oviposition] cycle duration), pathogen development rate (*PDR*, the

inverse of the extrinsic incubation period: the time required for exposed mosquitoes to become

infectious), and vector competence (*bc*, the proportion of exposed mosquitoes that become

infectious). Vector competence is the product of infection efficiency (*c*, the proportion of

exposed mosquitoes that develop a disseminated infection) and transmission efficiency (*b,* the

proportion of infected mosquitoes that become infectious, with virus present in saliva). Three

parameters do not depend on temperature: mosquito density (*M*), human density (*N*), the rate at

which infected hosts recover and become immune (*r*).

Basic R_0: $R_0(T) = \left(\dfrac{a(T)^2 bc(T) e^{-\frac{\mu(T)}{PDR(T)}} M}{N\, r\, \mu(T)} \right)^{1/2}$ eq. 1

As in previous work [2–4,6–8,10], we extend the basic R_0 model to account for the effects of

temperature on mosquito density (*M*) via additional temperature-sensitive life history traits (eq.

2): fecundity (as eggs per female per day, *EFD*), egg viability (proportion of eggs hatching into

larvae, *EV*), proportion of larvae surviving to adulthood (*pLA*), and mosquito development rate

(*MDR*, the inverse of the development period).

Full R_0: $R_0(T) = \left(\dfrac{a(T)^2 bc(T) e^{-\frac{\mu(T)}{PDR(T)}} EFD(T) EV(T) pLA(T) MDR(T)}{N\, r\, \mu(T)^3} \right)^{1/2}$ eq. 2

Fecundity data were only available as eggs per female per gonotrophic cycle (*EFGC*; for Cx.

pipiens) or eggs per raft (*ER*; for Cx. *quinquefasciatus*). Thus, we further modified the model to

obtain the appropriate units for fecundity: we added an additional biting rate term to the model

(to divide by the length of the gonotrophic cycle, eqs. S1 and S2) and for *Cx. quinquefasciatus*

we also added a term for the proportion of females ovipositing (*pO*; eq. S2).

We parameterized a temperature-dependent R_0 model for each relevant vector–virus pair

using previously published data. We conducted a literature survey to identify studies that

measured the focal traits at three or more constant temperatures in a controlled laboratory

experiment. From these data, we fit thermal responses for each trait using Bayesian inference.

This approach allowed us to quantify uncertainty and formally incorporate prior data [3] to

constrain fits when data for the focal species were sparse or only measured on a limited portion

of the temperature range (see *Material and Methods* for details).

For each combination of trait and species, we selected the most appropriate of three

functional forms for the thermal response. As in previous work [2–4,6–8], we fit traits with a

symmetrical unimodal thermal response with a quadratic function (eq. 3) and traits with an

asymmetrical unimodal thermal response with a Briére function [45] (eq. 4). For some

asymmetrical responses (e.g., *PDR* for most vector–virus pairs), we did not directly observe a

decrease in trait values at high temperatures due to a limited temperature range. In these cases,

we chose to fit a Briére function based on previous studies with wider temperature ranges [2,4–6]

and thermal biology theory [46]; the upper thermal limit for these fits did not limit transmission

in the R_0 models, and therefore did not impact the results. Unlike in previous work, lifespan data

for all vectors here exhibited a monotonically decreasing thermal response over the range of

experimental temperatures available. We fit these data using a linear function (eq. 5) that

plateaued at coldest observed data point to be conservative. To overwinter, *Cx. pipiens* and *Cx.*

tarsalis enter reproductive diapause and hibernate [47,48], and *Cx. pipiens* can survive

temperatures at or near freezing (0°C) for several months [47]. *Cx. quinquefasciatus* enters a

non-diapause quiescent state [48,49] and is likely less tolerant of cold stress, but we wanted a

consistent approach across models and other traits constrained the lower thermal limit of the *Cx.*

quinquefasciatus R_0 model to realistic temperatures.

Quadratic function: $f(T) = -q(T - T_{min})(T - T_{max})$ eq. 3

Briére function: $f(T) = q \cdot T(T - T_{min})\sqrt{(T_{max} - T)}$ eq. 4

Linear function: $f(T) = -mT + z$ eq. 5

In the quadratic and Briére functions of temperature (*T*), the trait values depend on a lower

thermal limit (T_{min}), an upper thermal limit (T_{max}), and a scaling coefficient (*q*). In the linear

function, the trait values depend on a slope (*m*) and intercept (*z*).

The fitting via Bayesian inference produced posterior distributions for each parameter in

the thermal response functions (eqs. 3–5) for each trait-species combination. These posterior

distributions represent the estimated uncertainty in the parameters. We used these parameter

distributions to calculate distributions of expected mean functions for each trait over a

temperature gradient (from 1–45ºC by 0.1ºC increments). Then we substituted these samples

from the distributions of the mean thermal responses for each trait into eq. 2 to calculate the

posterior distributions of predicted R_0 over this same temperature gradient for each vector–virus

pair (see *Material and Methods* and S1 Text for details). Thus, the estimated uncertainty in the

thermal response of each trait is propagated through to R_0 and combined to produce the estimated

response of R_0 to temperature, including the uncertainty in $R_0(T)$.

Because the magnitude of realized R_0 depends on system-specific factors like breeding

habitat availability, reservoir and human host availability, vector control, species interactions,

and additional climate factors, we focused on the relative relationship between R_0 and

temperature [8]. We rescaled the R_0 model results to range from 0 to 1 (i.e., 'relative R_0'),

preserving the temperature-dependence (including the absolute thermal limits and thermal

optima) while making each model span the same scale. To compare trait responses and R_0

models, we quantify three key temperature values: the optimal temperature for transmission

(T_{opt}) and the lower and upper thermal limits (T_{min} and T_{max}, respectively) where temperature is

predicted to prohibit transmission ($R_0 = 0$).

RESULTS

Trait thermal responses

We fit thermal response functions from empirical data for most of the vector and virus

traits that affect transmission (Table S1 and Fig 1). All mosquito traits were temperature-

sensitive (three main *Culex* species: Fig 3, Fig 4; *Ae. taeniorhynchus*, *Ae. triseriatus*, *Ae. vexans*,

Cx. theileri, and *Culiseta melanura*: Fig S1). For most species, the extensive data for larval traits

(mosquito development rate [MDR] and survival [pLA]) produced clear unimodal thermal

responses with relatively low uncertainty (Fig 3A,B, Fig S1A,B). For biting rate (*a*) and

fecundity traits (*pO, EFGC, ER, EV*), trait data were often more limited and fits were more

uncertain, but still consistent with the expected unimodal thermal responses based on previous

studies [2,4–6] and theory [46] (Fig 3C, Fig 4, Fig S1C-F). However, adult lifespan (*lf*) data

clearly contrasted with expectations from previous studies of more tropical mosquitoes. Lifespan

decreased linearly over the entire temperature range of available data (coldest treatments: 14–

16ºC, Fig 3D; 22ºC, Fig S1D) instead of peaking at intermediate temperatures (e.g., previously

published optima for more tropical species: 22.2–23.4ºC) [2–4,6,7].

In general, the adult mosquito traits (biting rate, lifespan, and fecundity [*a, lf, pO, EFGC,*

ER, EV]) varied more among species than the larval traits (development rate and survival [*MDR*

and *pLA*]), although the high degree of uncertainty resulted in overlapping 95% credible intervals

(CIs) between species for most traits (Fig 3, Fig 4, Fig S1), with two exceptions. First, the

thermal response for lifespan (*lf*) for *Cx. tarsalis* was significantly less steep than the response

for *Cx. pipiens* (Fig 3D; 95% CIs for slope coefficients: *Cx. tarsalis* = 1.12–2.24, *Cx. pipiens* =

3.83–5.84). Second, the symmetry of the unimodal functional form was generally consistent for

each trait across species, with the exceptions that the thermal responses for the proportion

ovipositing (*pO*) and egg viability (*EV*) were symmetrical for *Cx. pipiens* and asymmetrical for

Cx. quinquefasciatus (Fig 4 A,C). The lifespan pattern (thermal response of *Cx. tarsalis* less

steep than *Cx. pipiens*) did not match any *a priori* prediction, but the differences for *pO* and EV

matched predictions based on the geographic ranges of the vectors: lower-latitude *Cx.*

quinquefasciatus performed better at warmer temperatures for *pO* (Fig 3A), and higher-latitude

Cx. pipiens performed better at cooler temperatures for *EV* (Fig 3C).

Figure 3: *Culex* spp. mosquito traits respond strongly and consistently to temperature. The thermal responses of mosquito traits for the North American vectors of West Nile virus: *Culex pipiens* (dark grey), *Cx. quinquefasciatus* (red), and *Cx. tarsalis* (blue). (A) Mosquito development rate (*MDR*), (B) larval-to-adult survival (*pLA*), (C) biting rate (*a*), and (D) adult lifespan (*lf*). Points without error bars are reported means from single studies; points with error bars are averages of means from multiple studies (+/- standard error, for visual clarity only; thermal responses were fit to reported means, see Figs S2–5). Solid lines are posterior means; shaded areas are 95% credible intervals of the trait mean. See Fig S1 for thermal responses for *Aedes taeniorhynchus*, *Aedes triseriatus*, *Ae. vexans*, *Culiseta melanura*.

Figure 4: ***Culex pipiens* and *Cx. quinquefasciatus* fecundity traits respond strongly to temperature but with different functional forms.** The thermal responses of mosquito traits for the primary vectors of West Nile virus: *Culex pipiens* (dark grey) and *Cx. quinquefasciatus* (red). (A) Proportion ovipositing (*pO*), (B) fecundity (eggs per female per gonotrophic cycle, *EFGC,* or eggs per raft, *ER*), and (C) egg viability (*EV*). Points without error bars are reported means from single studies; points with error bars are averages of means from multiple studies (+/- standard error, for visual clarity only; thermal responses were fit to reported means, see Fig S6). Solid lines are posterior distribution means; shaded areas are 95% credible intervals of the trait mean. See Fig S1 for thermal responses for *Ae. vexans*, *Cx. theileri*, and *Culiseta melanura*.

The thermal responses for pathogen development rate were similar among most vector–

virus pairs (Fig 5), with a few notable exceptions: WNV in *Cx. quinquefasciatus* had a warmer

lower thermal limit (Fig 5A); WNV in *Cx. univittatus* had a cooler optimum and upper thermal

limit (Fig 5A); and SINV in *Ae. taeniorhynchus* had limited data that indicated very little

response to temperature (Fig 5C). By contrast, the thermal response of vector competence varied

substantially across vectors and viruses (Fig 6). For example, infection efficiency (*c*) of *Cx.*

pipiens peaked at warmer temperatures for WNV than for SINV (Fig 6A,G; 95% CIs: SINV =

14.1–30.5ºC, WNV = 31.9–36.1ºC), transmission efficiency (*b*) of *Cx. tarsalis* peaked at warmer

temperatures for WNV and SLEV than for WEEV (Fig 6B,E,H; CIs: WEEV = 19.2–23.2ºC,

SLEV = 23.5–29.7ºC, WNV = 23.9–29.3ºC), and the lower thermal limit for vector competence

(*bc*) for WNV was much warmer in *Cx. pipiens* than in *Cx. univittatus* (Fig 6C; CIs: *Cx.*

univittatus = 1.5–7.1ºC, *Cx. pipiens* = 15.0–17.9ºC). Infection data for RVFV were only

available in *Ae. taeniorhynchus*, a New World species that is not a known vector for the virus in

nature.

Figure 5: Pathogen development rates have high thermal optima. Thermal responses of pathogen development rate (*PDR*). (A) West Nile virus in *Culex pipiens* (dark grey), *Cx. quinquefasciatus* (red), *Cx. tarsalis* (blue), and *Cx. univitattus* (orange). (B) Three viruses in *Cx. tarsalis*: West Nile virus (same as in A, blue), Western Equine Encephalitis virus (light blue), and St. Louis Encephalitis virus (dark blue). (C) Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus in *Aedes triseriatus* (violet), Rift Valley Fever virus in *Ae. taeniorhynchus* (light green), Sindbis virus in *Ae. taeniorhynchus* (dark green). We did not fit a thermal response for Sindbis virus in *Ae. taeniorhynchus* because the limited data responded weakly to temperature and did not match our priors. We used informative priors based on thermal biology theory and data from other systems to fit the decrease at high temperatures (see *Model Overview*); other traits determined the upper limits of the R_0 models. Points without error bars are reported means from single studies; points with error bars are averages of means from multiple studies (+/- standard error, for visual clarity only; thermal responses were fit to reported means, see Fig S7). Solid lines are posterior distribution

means; shaded areas are 95% credible intervals of the trait mean.

Figure 6: Vector competence responds strongly to temperature and varies across vector

and virus species. Thermal responses of infection efficiency (*c*, # infected / # exposed; first

column), transmission efficiency (*b*, # transmitting / # infected; second column) or vector

competence (*bc*, # infected / # exposed; third column) for vector–virus pairs. First row (A,B,C):

West Nile virus in *Culex pipiens* (dark grey), *Cx. tarsalis* (blue), and *Cx. univitattus*

(yellow/orange). Second row: (D,E,F) Western Equine Encephalitis virus in *Cx. tarsalis* (light

blue). Third row (G,H,I): Sindbis virus in *Aedes taeniorhynchus* (dark green), Sindbis virus in

Cx. pipiens (light gray), St. Louis Encephalitis virus in *Cx. tarsalis* (dark blue), Eastern Equine

Encephalitis virus in *Ae. triseriatus* (violet), and Rift Valley Fever virus in *Ae. taeniorhynchus*

(light green). Points are means of replicates from single or multiple studies (+/- standard error,

for visual clarity only; thermal responses were fit to replicate-level data, see Fig S8, Fig S9).

Solid lines are posterior distribution means; shaded areas are 95% credible intervals of the trait

mean.

Temperature-dependent R_0 models

Relative R_0 responded unimodally to temperature for all the vector–virus pairs, with

many peaking at fairly cool temperatures (medians: 22.7–26.0ºC, see Table 2 for CIs; Fig 7). The

lower thermal limits (medians: 8.7–19.0ºC, see Table 2 for CIs; Fig 7) were more variable than

the optima or the upper thermal limits (medians: 31.9–37.8ºC, see Table 2 for CIs; Fig 7),

although confidence intervals overlapped in most cases because lower thermal limits also had

higher uncertainty (Fig 7). The *Ae. taeniorhynchus* models were clear outliers, with much

warmer distributions for the upper thermal limits, and optima that trended warmer as well.

Differences in relative R_0 stemmed from variation both in vector traits (e.g., in Fig 7A,

with WNV in different vector species) and in virus infection traits (e.g., in Fig 7B, with different

viruses in *Cx. tarsalis*). The upper thermal limit was warmer for WNV transmitted by *Cx. pipiens*

(34.9ºC [CI: 32.9–37.5ºC] than by *Cx. quinquefasciatus* (31.8ºC [CI: 31.1–32.2ºC]), counter to

the *a priori* prediction based on vector geographic ranges. This result implies that warming from

climate change may differentially impact transmission by these two vectors. Additionally, the

lower thermal limit for WNV varied widely (but with slightly overlapping 95% CIs) across

different vector species (Fig 7D), from 19.0ºC (14.2–21.0ºC) in *Cx. quinquefasciatus* to 16.8ºC

(14.9–17.8ºC) in *Cx. pipiens* to 12.2ºC (9.7–15.3ºC) in *Cx. tarsalis* to 11.1ºC (8.1–15.4ºC) in *Cx.*

univittatus (an African and Eurasian vector; Table 2). Based on these trends in the thermal limits

of R_0, the seasonality of transmission and the upper latitudinal and elevational limits could vary

for WNV transmitted by these different species.

Figure 7: Unimodal thermal responses of transmission (relative R_0) for ten vector-virus pairs. Posterior mean relative R_0 for (A) West Nile virus (WNV) in *Culex pipiens* (dark grey), *Cx. tarsalis* (blue), *Cx. quinquefasciatus* (red), and *Cx. univitattus* (orange); (B) three viruses in *Cx. tarsalis*: WNV (same as in A, blue), Western Equine Encephalitis virus (WEEV, light blue), and St. Louis Encephalitis virus (SLEV, dark blue); (C) Sindbis virus (SINV) in *Aedes taeniorhynchus* (dark green) and *Cx. pipiens* (light grey), Rift Valley Fever virus (RVFV) in *Ae. taeniorhynchus* (light green), and Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEEV) in *Ae. triseriatus* (violet). (D) Posterior median and uncertainty estimates for the lower thermal limit, optimum, and upper thermal limit. Points show medians, thick lines show middle 50% density, thin lines show 95% credible intervals. Models are ordered by increasing median optimal temperature.

TABLE 2:

R_0 Model	T_{min} (ºC)	Optimum (ºC)	T_{max} (ºC)	Thermal breadth (ºC)
From this study:				
EEEV in *Ae. triseriatus*	11.7 (8.8 – 16.3)	22.7 (22.0 – 23.6)	31.9 (31.1 – 33.0)	20.0 (15.4 – 23.0)
WEEV in *Cx. tarsalis*	8.6 (6.3 – 13.0)	23.0 (22.0 – 24.7)	31.9 (30.3 – 35.2)	23.3 (18.2 – 27.0)
SINV in *Cx. pipiens*	9.4 (6.9 – 13.3)	23.2 (21.7 – 24.6)	33.8 (28.2 – 37.0)	23.8 (17.3 – 28.6)
WNV in *Cx. univittatus*	11.0 (8.0 – 15.3)	23.8 (22.7 – 25.0)	33.6 (31.2 – 36.9)	22.5 (18.2 – 26.3)
WNV in *Cx. tarsalis*	12.1 (9.6 – 15.2)	23.9 (22.9 – 25.9)	32.0 (30.6 – 38.6)	20.1 (16.3 – 26.7)
SLEV in *Cx. tarsalis*	12.9 (11.0 – 14.8)	24.1 (23.1 – 26.0)	32.0 (30.6 – 38.5)	19.2 (16.5 – 25.6)
WNV in *Cx. pipiens*	16.8 (14.9 – 17.8)	24.5 (23.6 – 25.5)	34.9 (32.9 – 37.6)	18.2 (15.8 – 21.2)
WNV in *Cx. quinquefasciatus*	19.0 (14.1 – 20.9)	25.2 (23.9 – 27.1)	31.8 (31.1 – 32.2)	12.7 (10.6 – 17.6)
RVFV in *Ae. taeniorhynchus*	10.6 (8.6 – 14.4)	25.9 (23.8 – 27.1)	37.8 (34.4 – 39.1)	27.0 (21.8 – 29.7)
SINV in *Ae. taeniorhynchus*	9.7 (8.3 – 13.6)	26.0 (23.9 – 27.3)	37.8 (34.4 – 39.2)	27.7 (22.6 – 30.0)
From previous studies:				
Falciparum malaria [3]	19.1 (16.0 – 23.2)	25.4 (23.9 – 27.0)	32.6 (29.4 – 34.3)	13.2 (8.3 – 17.1)
DENV in *Ae. albopictus* [4]	16.2 (13.0 – 19.8)	26.4 (25.4 – 27.6)	31.4 (29.5 – 34.0)	15.2 (11.2 – 19.3)
Ross River virus [6]	17.0 (15.8 – 18.0)	26.4 (26.0 – 26.6)	31.4 (30.4 – 33.0)	14.2 (12.8 – 16.2)
ZIKV in *Ae. aegypti* [7]	22.8 (20.5 – 23.8)	28.9 (28.2 – 29.6)	34.5 (34.1 – 36.2)	11.7 (10.4 – 14.5)
DENV in *Ae. aegypti* [4]	17.8 (14.6 – 21.2)	29.1 (28.4 – 29.8)	34.5 (34.1 – 35.8)	16.7 (13.2 – 20.2)

Table 2: Thermal optima and limits for transmission of mosquito-borne pathogens. Median

temperature of the lower thermal limit (T_{min}), optimum, and upper thermal limit (T_{max}), with 95%

credible intervals in parentheses.

Different traits determined the lower and upper thermal limits and optimum for

transmission across vector–virus pairs. The lower thermal limit for transmission was most often

determined by parasite development rate (*PDR*; WNV and SLEV in *Cx. tarsalis*, WNV in *Cx.*

quinquefasciatus) or biting rate (*a*; WNV in *Cx. univitattus*, WEEV in *Cx. tarsalis*, EEEV in *Ae.*

triseriatus, RVFV and SINV in *Ae. taeniorhynchus*, SINV in *Cx. pipiens*; Figs S12–20), which

tend to respond asymmetrically to temperature, with high optima. However, vector competence

(*bc*) determined the lower limit for WNV in *Cx. pipiens* (Fig S11). The upper thermal limit was

determined by biting rate (*a*) for the three *Cx. tarsalis* models and by adult lifespan (*lf*) for all

others, although proportion ovipositing (*pO*) was also important for WNV in *Cx.*

quinquefasciatus (Figs S11-S20). In all models, lifespan (*lf*) and biting rate (*a*) had the strongest

impact on the optimal temperature for transmission, with biting rate increasing transmission at

low temperatures and lifespan decreasing transmission at high temperatures (Figs S11-S20). This

result is consistent with previous mechanistic models of tropical mosquito-borne diseases,

despite the qualitative difference in the shape of the lifespan thermal response between those

tropical mosquitoes and the more temperate mosquitoes investigated here [2–4,6,7].

Model validation with human case data

We validated the R_0 models for WNV with independent data on human cases because the

temperature-dependent trait data for those models were relatively high quality and because

human case data were available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention across a

wide climatic gradient in the contiguous United States. We averaged county-level incidence and

mean summer temperatures from 2001–2016 to estimate the impact of temperature over space,

while ignoring interannual variation in disease that is largely driven by changes in host immunity

and drought [5]. We used generalized additive models (GAMs, which produce flexible,

smoothed responses) to ask: does average incidence respond unimodally to mean summer

temperature? If so, what is the estimated optimal temperature for transmission? Can we detect

upper or lower thermal limits for transmission? Incidence of human neuroinvasive West Nile

disease responded unimodally to average summer temperature and peaked at 24ºC (23.5–24.2ºC

depending on the spline settings; Fig 8, Fig S24), closely matching the optima from the

mechanistic models for the three North American *Culex* species (23.9–25.2ºC; Table 2).

However, the human disease data did not show evidence for lower or upper thermal limits: mean

incidence remained positive and with relatively flat slopes below ~19ºC and above ~28ºC,

although sample size was very low above 28ºC and below 15ºC resulting in wide confidence

intervals (Fig 8, Fig S24).

We used national month-of-onset data for WNV, EEEV, and SLEV to ask: is the

seasonality of incidence consistent with our models for temperature-dependent transmission?

The month-of-onset for cases of WNV was consistent with predicted transmission, $R_0(T)$ (Fig 9).

As expected (based on previous studies and the time required for mosquito populations to

increase, become infectious, and bite humans, and for humans to present symptoms and seek

medical care [4,6]), there was a two-month lag between initial increases in $R_0(T)$ and incidence:

cases began rising in June to the peak in August. The dramatic decline in transmission between

September and October corresponds also closely to the predicted decline in relative R_0, but

without the expected lag. In general, the seasonal patterns of SLEV and EEEV incidence were

similar to WNV, but differed by three orders of magnitude from ~20,000 cases of WNV to ~40-

50 cases of EEEV and SLEV during the peak month (Fig 9). However, transmission of SLEV

and EEEV are predicted to begin increasing one month earlier than WNV (March versus April,

Fig 9), because the mechanistic models predict that the lower thermal limits for SLEV and EEEV

are cooler than those for WNV in two of the three North American vectors (*Cx. pipiens* and *Cx.*

quinquefasciatus, Fig 7). The month-of-onset data partially support this prediction, as cases of

SLEV (but not EEEV) disease begin to increase earlier in the year than WNV, relative to the

summer peak.

Figure 8: Incidence of human neuro-invasive West Nile disease across US counties responds unimodally to temperature, peaking at 24°C. A generalized additive model (GAM) was fit to county-level data (n = 3,109) of mean temperature from May-September and incidence of neuro-invasive West Nile disease, both averaged from 2001-2016. See Fig S24 for fits across a range of smoothing parameters.

Figure 9: Temperature shapes the seasonal pattern of human cases of mosquito-borne viral diseases. Incidence (solid lines) lags behind predicted temperature-dependent R_0 (dashed lines) for human cases of neuro-invasive disease caused by West Nile virus (WNV, black), St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV, dark gray), and Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEEV, light gray) by 2 months. This lag matches patterns in other mosquito-borne diseases, and is caused by the time required for mosquito populations to increase, become infectious, and bite humans, and for humans to present symptoms and seek medical care.

DISCUSSION

As climate changes, it is critical to understand how changes in temperature will affect the

transmission of mosquito-borne diseases. Toward this goal, we developed temperature-

dependent, mechanistic transmission models for 10 vector–virus pairs. The viruses—West Nile

virus (WNV), St. Louis Encephalitis virus (SLEV), Eastern and Western Equine Encephalitis

viruses (EEEV and WEEV), Sindbis virus (SINV), and Rift Valley fever virus (RVFV)—sustain

substantial transmission in temperate areas (except RVFV), and are transmitted by shared vector

species, including *Cx. pipiens*, *Cx. quinquefasciatus*, and *Cx. tarsalis* (except EEEV; Fig 1).

Although most traits responded unimodally to temperature, as expected [2–4,6–8], lifespan

decreased linearly with temperature over the entire temperature range of available data (> 14ºC)

for these *Culex* vectors (Fig 3). Transmission responded unimodally to temperature, with the

thermal limits and optima for transmission varying among some of the focal mosquito and virus

species (Fig 7, Table 2), largely due to differences in the thermal responses of mosquito biting

rate, lifespan, vector competence, and parasite development rate. Human case data for WNV

disease across the US exhibited a strong unimodal thermal response (Fig 8), and month-of-onset

data for three viruses was consistent with the predicted seasonality of transmission (Fig 9). Thus,

the mechanistic models captured geographical and seasonal patterns of human incidence, despite

the complexity of the enzootic cycles and spillover into humans. Our analysis was somewhat

limited by the lack of data for several trait-species combinations, or by data that were sparse,

particularly at high temperatures. However, our key results—maximal transmission at

intermediate temperatures—are unlikely to change, and underscore the importance of

considering unimodal thermal responses when predicting how climate change will impact

mosquito-borne disease transmission.

The monotonically decreasing thermal responses for lifespan in these more temperate

mosquitoes (Fig 3D) contrast with unimodal responses of more tropical species [2,4,6,8], and

may reflect differing thermal physiology between species that use diapause or quiescence, two

forms of dormancy, to persist over winter and those that do not (see *Model Overview*) [47–49].

Ae. albopictus, a species that occurs in both tropical and temperate zones, exhibits a latitudinal

gradient in the United States in which more temperate populations diapause while sub-tropical

populations do not [50]. Experiments could test this hypothesis by measuring whether the

functional form of the thermal response for lifespan differs between northern and southern US

Ae. albopictus populations. Despite the difference in the shape of the thermal response, lifespan

played a similarly important role here as in previous studies of mosquito-borne pathogens,

strongly limiting transmission at high temperatures (Figs S11–20). Nonetheless, the linear

thermal responses for lifespan ultimately promotes higher transmission at relatively cool

temperatures because unlike in more tropical species, lifespan did not decline at cool

temperatures within the range measured (> 14ºC). At more extreme temperatures expected to be

fatal even for diapausing mosquitoes (i.e., below 0ºC), we expect lifespan to eventually decline,

so that the response over broader temperature ranges is likely unimodal.

Predicted transmission for many of the diseases in this study peaked at and extended to

cooler temperatures than for previously studied diseases with more tropical distributions (see Fig

7 and Table 2 for 95% credible intervals)[8]. Here, the optimal temperatures for transmission

varied from 22.7–25.2ºC (excluding *Ae. taeniorhynchus* models, Fig 7). By contrast, models

predict that transmission peaks at 25.4ºC for malaria [2,3], 26.4ºC for Ross River virus [6] and

dengue in *Ae. albopictus* [4], 28.9ºC for Zika in *Ae. aegypti* [4]*,* and 29.1ºC for dengue in *Ae.*

aegypti [4,7]. Many models also had cooler lower thermal limits (medians: 8.7–19.0ºC) than

those of diseases with more tropical distributions (medians: 16.0–17.8ºC)[8]. In combination

with similar upper thermal limits (see below), these patterns led to wider thermal breadths (18.2–

27.7ºC; Fig 7) for most of the viruses here compared to the more tropical pathogens (11.7–

16.7ºC), excepting WNV in *Cx. quinquefasciatus* (12.7ºC), the vector most restricted to lower

latitude, sub-tropical geographic areas (Fig 2). These results match a previous finding that

temperate insects had wider thermal breadths than tropical insects [51], and likely reflect thermal

adaptation to greater variation in temperature in temperate areas compared to tropical areas [52].

Additionally, SINV—a virus with substantial transmission at very high latitudes in Finland

[26]—had the second coolest lower thermal limit (Fig 7, Table 2). Further, lower-latitude *Cx.*

quinquefasciatus outperformed higher-latitude *Cx. pipiens* at warmer temperatures for proportion

ovipositing (*pO*; Fig 3A), while the reverse occurred at cooler temperatures for egg viability (*EV*;

Fig 3C). Collectively, these results imply that, to some extent, measurements of physiological

traits can predict geographic patterns of vectors or disease transmission at broad scales.

However, geographic range differences (Fig 2) did not consistently predict variation in thermal

responses among the *Culex* species in this study (e.g., biting rate [*a*, Fig 3C] and adult lifespan

[*lf*, Fig 3D]), indicating that life history and transmission trait responses at constant temperatures

do not always predict the geographic distributions of species. Instead, the ability to tolerate

temperature extremes may limit species distributions more than their performance at average or

constant temperatures [53]. Moreover, although diseases like malaria and dengue are generally

considered to be "tropical", historically their distributions extended further into temperate

regions [54,55]. Thus, current distributions of disease may reflect a realized niche restricted by

social factors more than a fundamental niche based on ecological factors like temperature.

In contrast to the optima, lower thermal limits, and thermal breadths, the upper thermal

limits for the vector–virus pairs in this study (31.9–34.9ºC, excluding *Ae. taeniorhynchus*

models; Fig 7D, Table 2) closely matched those of more tropical diseases (31.5–34.7ºC) [2–

4,6,7]. This similarity likely arises because maximum summer temperatures in temperate areas

can match or even exceed maximum temperatures in tropical areas [52]. Accordingly, there may

be a fundamental upper thermal constraint on transmission that applies similarly to all

mosquitoes-borne diseases, driven by short mosquito lifespans at high temperatures. The

relatively high upper thermal limits in both *Ae. taeniorynchus* transmission models were driven

by the thermal response of lifespan, which was fit to few data points; more data are needed to

determine if it reflects the true thermal response in that species [Fig S1]. These results indicate

that as temperatures rise due to climate change, temperate diseases are unlikely to be displaced

by warming alone, although they may also expand toward the poles, even as tropical diseases

may expand farther into temperate zones.

Independent human case data support unimodal thermal responses for transmission and

the importance of temperature in shaping geographic patterns of mosquito-borne disease. Human

cases of WNV [56–62] and SINV [63,64] are often positively associated with temperature. Here,

we found incidence of neuroinvasive WNV disease peaked at intermediate mean summer

temperatures across counties in the US (Fig 8) that matched the optima predicted by our models.

This result adds to prior evidence for reduced transmission of WNV [65] and other mosquito-

borne diseases [2,16–19] at high temperatures. Although we did not detect lower or upper

thermal limits (Fig 8), this result is unsurprising based on fundamental differences between the

types of temperature data used to parameterize and validate the models. The R_0 model prediction

is derived from data collected in a controlled laboratory environment at constant temperatures,

while average incidence in the field reflects temperatures that vary at a variety of temporal scales

(daily, seasonal, and interannual). Thus, we hypothesize that temperature variation over time

may sustain transmission in regions with otherwise unsuitable mean summer temperatures by

providing time windows that are suitable for transmission [38,39,41].

The temperature-dependent models also predict the seasonality of human cases of WNV,

EEEV, and SLEV (Fig 9). The 2-month lag between climate suitability and the onset of human

cases, which matches previous results from other mosquito-borne diseases [4,6], arises from the

time following the onset of suitable conditions required for mosquito populations to increase

[66], become infectious, and bite humans, and for humans to present symptoms and seek medical

care [67,68]. Transmission of the more temperate viruses here may incur additional lags because

human cases only result from enzootic transmission and multiple rounds of amplification within

reservoir hosts may be required before prevalence is sufficiently high to spill over into humans.

Additionally, as wild birds disperse in late summer, both *Cx. pipiens* and *Cx. tarsalis* shift their

feeding preferences from birds to humans, increasing transmission to people and influencing the

seasonal dynamics of WNV [69]. Drought, precipitation, and reservoir immunity also strongly

drive transmission of WNV [5,59,60,62] and may interact with temperature. SLEV, EEEV, and

WEEV are less common in nature, and thus less well-studied, but the lower thermal limits in our

study support previous findings that transmission WEEV is favored over SLEV in cooler

conditions [70]. Additionally, the seasonal patterns of incidence data (Fig 9) provide some

support for the model prediction that SLEV transmission is possible at cooler temperatures than

WNV by North American vectors (Table 2). By contrast, mean temperature is not associated

with outbreaks of RVFV, although they are highly predictable based on precipitation driven by

El Niño–Southern Oscillation cycles [71,72]. Thus, disease dynamics depend on the interaction

between temperature and other environmental factors, and the relative importance of temperature

versus other drivers varies across systems.

Most prior studies with mechanistic models for temperature-dependent transmission of

WNV do not capture the unimodal thermal response that our mechanistic models predict and that

we observe in the human case data (Table 3). Two previous models predicted that transmission

of WNV would increase up to the warmest temperatures they considered, 28ºC [73] and 35ºC

[74]. In both cases, the daily survival rates estimated from lab experiments were far less sensitive

to temperature than our measure of adult lifespan, and neither model was validated with field

data. A third study with models for *Cx. pipiens*, *Cx. quiquefasciatus*, and *Cx. tarsalis*, like our

study, predicted unimodal thermal responses for transmission, with very similar optima but with

lower thermal limits that were ~5ºC warmer, resulting in much narrower thermal breadths (Fig

S22) [5]. This previous model [5] was validated with annual, state-level WNV human case data

(in contrast to our county-level data averaged over multiple years), and detected a positive effect

of temperature, with no decline at high temperatures [5]. The best spatial and temporal scales for

validating temperature-dependent transmission models and detecting the impacts of temperature

remain an open question. For instance, different approaches may be necessary to detect thermal

optima and thermal limits. Critically, differences in modeling and validation approaches can lead

to strongly divergent conclusions and predictions for the impact of climate change.

TABLE 3:

R_0 Model	Optimum (°C)
From this study:	
WNV in *Cx. pipiens*	24.5
WNV in *Cx. quinquefasciatus*	25.2
WNV in *Cx. tarsalis*	23.9
WNV in *Cx. univittatus*	23.8
From previous studies:	
WNV in *Cx. pipiens* [5]	24.9
WNV in *Cx. quinquefasciatus* [5]	24.3
WNV in *Cx. tarsalis* [5]	24.9
WNV in *Cx. pipiens* [70]	28
WNV in *Cx. pipiens molestus* [70]	28
WNV in *Cx.* and *Ae. spp.* [71]	35

Table 3: Predicted optima for transmission of West Nile virus. Predicted optima for

transmission from this study and previous models.

Given the unimodal relationship between temperature and transmission of these

temperate mosquito-borne pathogens, we expect climate warming to lead to predictable shifts in

disease transmission [20,22,23]. Warming should extend the transmission season earlier into the

spring and later into the fall and increase transmission potential in higher latitudes and altitudes,

although this prediction may be impacted by changes in bird migrations. However, the thermal

optima for these temperate vector–virus pairs are relatively cool, so in many locations, warming

could result in summer temperatures that exceed the thermal optima for transmission more

frequently, reducing overall transmission or creating a bimodal transmission season [75]. Based

on the average summer temperature data (2001–2016) in our analysis (Fig 8), currently the

majority of people (70%) and counties (68%) are below the optimal temperature for transmission

(23.9 °C, fit by the GAM), while 30-32% are above the optimum. The numbers are similar when

restricted to counties with observed West Nile virus cases: 69% and 70%, respectively. Thus, all

else being equal, we might expect a net increase in transmission of West Nile virus in response to

the warming climate, even as hot temperatures suppress transmission in some places. Still,

warming is unlikely to eliminate any of these more temperate pathogens since the upper thermal

limits for transmission are well above temperatures pathogens regularly experience in their

current geographic ranges. More generally, our results raise concerns about the common practice

of extrapolating monotonic relationships between temperature and disease incidence fit from

observational data into warmer climate regimes to predict future cases [59,61].

While the data-driven models presented here represent the most comprehensive synthesis

to date of trait thermal response data and their impact on transmission for these mosquito–

pathogen systems with substantial transmission in temperate regions, additional temperature-

dependent trait data would increase the accuracy and decrease the uncertainty in these models

where data were sparse or missing. Our data synthesis and uncertainty analysis suggest

prioritizing parasite development rate (*PDR*) and vector competence (*bc*) data and biting rate (*a*)

data because those thermal responses varied widely among vector–virus pairs and determined the

lower thermal limits and optima for transmission in many models. Additionally, vector

competence and/or parasite development rate data were missing in many cases (WNV in *Cx.*

quinquefasciatus, EEEV in *Cs. melanura*, RVFV in vectors from endemic areas, transmission

efficiency [*b*] for SINV) or sparse (EEEV and WNV in *Cx. univittatus*), as were biting rate data

(*Cx. univittatus*, RVFV vectors). Lifespan data—key for determining transmission optima and

upper thermal limits—were the missing for *Ae. triseriatus*, *Cs. melanura*, *Cx. univittatus*, and

RVFV vectors, and at temperatures below 14 ºC for all vector species, so it was unclear which

functional form these thermal responses should take (linear or quadratic). While the other

mosquito demographic traits did not determine thermal limits for transmission in models here,

fecundity (typically as *EFD*), larval-to-adult survival (*pLA*), and egg viability (*EV*) determined

thermal limits for malaria [2] and Ross River virus [6]. Thus, more fecundity data (missing for

Cx. tarsalis, *Cx. univittatus*, and *Ae. triseriatus*; sparse for *Cx. pipiens* and *Cx. quinquefasciatus*)

would also reduce model uncertainty. New data are particularly important for RVFV, which has

a tropical distribution but for which the model depends on traits measured in *Cx. pipiens*

collected from temperate regions and infection traits measured in *Ae. taeniorhynchus*, a North

American species. RVFV is transmitted by a diverse community of vectors across the African

continent, but experiments should prioritize hypothesized primary vectors (e.g., *Ae.*

circumluteolus or *Ae. mcintoshi*) or secondary vectors that already have partial trait data (e.g.,

Ae. vexans or *Cx. theileri*) [27,76]. Although temperature itself does not predict the occurrence of

RVFV outbreaks, it may affect the size of epidemics once they are triggered by precipitation.

Additionally, the thermal response of vector competence may vary across vector populations

[77] and/or virus isolates even within the same species, so more data may also improve the

accuracy of models without missing data.

As carbon emissions continue to increase and severe climate change becomes

increasingly inevitable [78], it is critical that we understand how temperature will shape

transmission of mosquito-borne diseases in a warmer future world. While data gaps are still

limiting, the comparative approach is powerful for predicting similarities and differences across

vectors and viruses, including differences between primarily tropical and temperate diseases [8].

Accounting for the effects of temperature variation [38,41,79] is an important next step for using

these models to accurately predict transmission. Additionally, the potential for evolution to

warmer climates is uncertain because of limited knowledge on the level of genetic variation in

thermal responses for most vectors or mosquito-borne pathogens within or between populations

(but see [80,81]). Further, vectors and pathogens may experience different selective pressures, as

mosquito populations may depend on either increased fecundity or longevity at high

temperatures, while pathogens require longer vector lifespans [8]. Thus, future trajectories of

these diseases will depend not just on suitability of mean temperatures but also on temperature

variation, thermal adaptation of vectors and viruses, land use (which governs mosquito–wildlife–

human interactions), vector control activities, human and wildlife immune dynamics, and

potential future emergence and spread of new vectors and viruses.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

All analyses were conducted using R 3.1.3 [82].

Vector species range maps

The distributions of *Cx. pipiens* and *Cx. quinquefasciatus* are georectified maps adapted

from [35,83]. The northern boundary of *Cx. tarsalis* was taken from [84]. For the southern

boundary, we drew a convex polygon using five datasets [85–89] in the Global Biodiversity

Information Facility (https://www.gbif.org/).

Temperature-dependent Trait Data

We found 38 studies with appropriate temperature-dependent trait data from controlled

laboratory experiments [5,56,80,81,90–124]. When necessary, we digitized the data using Web

Plot Digitizer [125], a free online tool. When lifespan data were reported by sex, only female

data were used. Vector competence trait data (b, c, or bc) were only included if time at sampling

surpassed the estimated extrinsic incubation period (*EIP*, the inverse of *PDR*) at that

temperature, which resulted in the exclusion of some studies [126,127].

Fitting Thermal Responses

We fit trait thermal responses with a Bayesian approach using the 'r2jags' package [128],

an R interface for the popular JAGS program [129] for the analysis of Bayesian graphical models

using Gibbs sampling. It is a (near) clone of BUGS (Bayesian inference Using Gibbs Sampling)

[130]. In JAGS, samples from a target distribution are obtained via Markov Chain Monte Carlo

(MCMC). More specifically, JAGS uses a Metropolis-within-Gibbs approach, with an Adaptive

Rejection Metropolis sampler used at each Gibbs step (for more information on MCMC

algorithms see [131]).

For each thermal response being fit to trait data, we identified the most appropriate

functional form (quadratic, Briére, or linear; eqs. 3–5) for that specific trait–species combination

[8]. For traits with ambiguous functional responses, we fit the quadratic and Briere and used the

deviance information criterion (DIC) [132] to pick the best fit. We assumed normal likelihood

distributions with temperature-dependent mean values described by the appropriate function

(eqs. 3–5) and a constant standard deviation described by an additional fitted parameter ($\tau =$

$1/\sigma^2$). The 95% credible intervals in Figs. 3-6 estimate the uncertainty in the mean thermal

response; 95% prediction intervals that incorporate the estimated standard deviation in the data

are shown in Figs S2-9.

We set all thermal response functions to zero when $T < T_{min}$ and $T > T_{max}$ (for eq. 3 and 4)

or when $T > -z/m$ (eq. 5) to prevent trait values from becoming negative. For traits that were

proportions or probabilities, we also limited the thermal response functions at 1. For the linear

thermal responses, we calculated the predicted thermal response in a similarly piecewise manner

in order to be conservative: for temperatures at or above the coldest observed data point, we used

the trait values predicted by the fitted thermal response (i.e., the typical method); for

temperatures below the coldest observed data point, we substituted the trait estimate at the

coldest observed data point (i.e., forcing the thermal response to plateau, rather than continue

increasing beyond the range of observed data).

For the fitting process, we ran three concurrent MCMC chains for 25000 iterations each,

discarding the first 5000 iterations for burn-in (convergence was checked visually). We thinned

the resultant chains, saving every eighth step. These settings resulted in 7500 samples in the full

posterior distribution that we kept for further analysis.

Generation of Priors

We used data-informed priors to decrease the uncertainty in our estimated thermal

responses and constrain the fitted thermal responses to be biologically plausible, particularly

when data were sparse. These priors used our total dataset, which contained temperature-

dependent trait data for all of the main species in the analysis (but with the focal species

removed, see below), as well as from additional temperate *Aedes* and *Culex* species

[92,94,102,106,111,112,133–138].

We fit each thermal response with a sequential two-step process, where both steps

employed the same general fitting method (described above in *Fitting Thermal Responses*) but

used different priors and data. In step 1, we generated high-information priors by fitting a

thermal response to data from all species except the focal species of interest (i.e., a 'leave-one-

out' approach). For example, for the prior for biting rate for *Cx. pipiens*, we used the biting rate

data for all species except *Cx. pipiens*. For this step, we set general, low-information priors that

represented minimal biological constrains on these functions (e.g., typically mosquitoes die if

temperatures exceed 45ºC, so all biological processes are expected to cease; T_{min} must be less

than T_{max}). The bounds of these uniformly distributed priors were: $0 < T_{min} < 24$, $26 < T_{max} < 45$

(quadratic) or $28 < T_{max} < 45$ (Briére), $0 < q < 1$, $-10 < m < 10$, and $0 < b < 250$. Then in step 2,

we fit a thermal response to data from the focal species using the high-information priors from

step 1.

Because we cannot directly pass posterior samples from JAGS as a prior, we modified

the results from step 1 to use them in step 2. We used the 'MASS' package [139] to fit a gamma

probability distribution to the posterior distributions for each thermal response parameter (T_{min},

T_{max}, and q [eq. 3 and 4]; or m and z [eq. 5]) obtained in step 1. The resulting gamma distribution

parameters can be used directly to specify the priors in the JAGS model. Because the prior

datasets were often very large, in many cases the priors were too strong and overdetermined the

fit to the focal data. In a few other cases, we had philosophical reasons to strongly constrain the

fit to the focal data even when they were sparse (e.g., to constrain T_{max} to very high temperatures

so that other traits with more information determine the upper thermal limit for R_0). Thus, we

deflated or inflated the variance as needed (i.e., we fixed the gamma distribution mean but

altered the variance by adjusting the parameters that describe the distribution accordingly). See

S1 Text for more details and specific variance modifications for each thermal response.

Constructing R_0 Models

When data were missing for a vector–virus pair, we used two criteria to decide which

thermal response to use as a substitute: 1) the ecological similarly (i.e., geographic range

overlap) of species with available thermal responses, and 2) how restrictive the upper and lower

bounds of the available thermal responses were. All else being equal, we chose the more

conservative (i.e., least restrictive) option so that R_0 would be less likely to be determined by trait

thermal responses that did not originate from the focal species. See S1 Text for more information

about specific models.

When there was more than one option for how to parameterize a model (e.g., vector

competence data for WEEV in *Cx. tarsalis* were available in two forms: separately as *b* and *c,*

and combined as *bc*), we calculated R_0 both ways. The results were very similar, except for the

model for RVFV with lifespan data from *Cx. pipiens* lifespan in place of *Ae. taeniorhynchus* (Fig

S21). See S1 Text for sensitivity and uncertainty methods and S1 Fig S11-20 for results.

Model validation: spatial analysis

We obtained county-level neuroinvasive WNV disease data from 2001-2016 for the

contiguous US (n = 3,109) through the CDC's county-level disease monitoring program [140].

Data were available as total human cases per year, which we adjusted to average cases per 1,000

people (using 2010 US county-level census data) to account for population differences. We

averaged cases across years beginning with the first year that had reported cases in a given

county to account for the initial spread of WNV and the strong impact of immunity on

interannual variation [5]. Ninety-eight percent of human cases of WNV in the US occur between

June and October (data described below), and cases of mosquito-borne disease often lag behind

temperature by 1–2 months [6,66]. Thus, we extracted monthly mean temperature data between

the months of May–September for all years between 2001-2016 and averaged the data to

estimate typical summer conditions for each county. Specifically, we took the centroid

geographic coordinate for every county in the contiguous US with the 'rgeos' package [141] and

extracted corresponding historic climate data (Climate Research Unit 3.1 rasters) [142] from

$0.5°^2$ cells (approx. 2,500-3,000 km^2) using the 'raster' package [143].

We fit a generalized additive model (GAM) for average incidence as a function of

average summer temperature using the 'mgcv' package [144]. We used a gamma distribution

with a log-link function to restrict incidence to positive values and capture heteroskedasticity in

the data (i.e., higher variance with higher predicted means), adding a small, near-zero constant

(0.0001) to all incidence values to allow the log-transformation for counties with zero incidence.

GAMs use additive functions of smooth predictor effects to fit responses that are extremely

flexible in the shape of the response. We restricted the number of knots to minimize overfitting

($k = 5$; see Fig S24 for results across varying values of k). For comparison, we also used the

'loess' function in base R 'stats' package [82] to fit locally estimated scatterplot smoothing

(LOESS) regressions of the same data. LOESS regression is a simpler but similarly flexible

method for estimating the central tendency of data. See Fig S25 for LOESS model results.

Model validation: seasonality analysis

We calculated monthly temperature-dependent relative R_0 to compare with month-of-

onset data for neuro-invasive WNV, EEEV, and SLEV disease aggregated nationwide from

2001-2016 [140,145,146], using the same monthly, county-level temperature data as above. For

WNV, we used the subset of counties with reported cases (68% of counties). For SLEV and

EEEV we used all counties from states with reported cases (16 and 20 states, respectively). We

weighted each county $R_0(T)$ by its population size to calculate a national estimate of $R_0(T)$. For

WNV, the county-level estimates of $R_0(T)$ used models for three *Culex* species (*Cx. pipiens*, *Cx.*

quinquefasciatus, and *Cx. tarsalis*) weighted according to the proportion of WNV-positive

mosquitoes reported at the state level, reported in [5]. SLEV and EEEV both only had one R_0

model. The estimated monthly temperature-dependent relative R_0 values and month-of-onset data

were compared visually.

Funding

EAM, MSS, JC, LRJ, and MN were supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF,

DEB-1518681; https://nsf.gov/). LRJ was supported by the NSF (DMS-1750113). AV and MN

were supported by the Stanford Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Summer Research

Program in the Biology Department; MN was supported by the Introductory Seminars Program

at Stanford University. HS was supported by a Luther and Alice Hamlett Undergraduate

Research Scholarship at Virginia Tech. EAM was also supported by the National Institutes of

Health (NIGMS R35 MIRA: 1R35GM133439-01), Stanford Woods Institute for the

Environment (https://woods.stanford.edu/research/environmental-venture-projects), the Hellman

Fellowship (http://www.hellmanfellows.org/), and the Terman Fellowship.

Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the students of the Spring 2017 Stanford University

Introductory Seminar course BIO 2N: Global Change and the Ecology and Evolution of

Infectious Diseases, who helped with preliminary literature searches, data collection, and model

fitting: Uche Amakiri, Michelle Bach, Isabelle Carpenter, Phillip Cathers, Audriana Fitzmorris,

Alex Fuentes, Margaux Giles, Gillian Gittler, Emma Leads Armstrong, Erika Malaspina, Elise

Most, Stephen Moye, Jackson Rudolph, Simone Speizer, William Wang, and Ethan Wentworth.

We thank the Stanford University Introductory Seminars program for support. We thank

Michelle Evans for creating Figure 2. We thank Marc Fischer, Nicole Lindsey, and Lyle

Peterson at the CDC for providing the month-of-onset case data, and Sara Paull for providing

state-level data for proportion of WNV vectors. We thank Nicholas Skaff for guidance with

EEEV vector ecology.

Competing interests: The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL for

Shocket et al. 'Transmission of West Nile virus and other temperate mosquito-borne viruses peaks at intermediate environmental temperatures'

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R_0 Model Specifications

The equation for R_0 (eq. 2 in main text) as a function of temperature (T) that was used in previous analyses [1–6] has fecundity measured as eggs per female per day (EFD):

$$\text{Full } R_0: R_0(T) = \left(\frac{a(T)^2 bc(T) e^{-\frac{\mu(T)}{PDR(T)}} EFD(T) EV(T) pLA(T) MDR(T)}{N \, r \, \mu(T)^3} \right)^{1/2} \qquad \text{eq. 2}$$

Fecundity data were not available directly as eggs per female per day, so we had to transform the available data to obtain the quantities needed for these models. The data for *Cx. pipiens* were reported as eggs per female per gonotrophic cycle ($EFGC$). To obtain EFD, we needed to divide $EFGC$ by the length of the gonotrophic cycle. In general, the gonotrophic cycle is assumed to be approximately the inverse of the biting rate. In fact, our 'biting rate' (a) data were observations of gonotrophic cycle duration. Accordingly, $EFD = EFGC * a$, resulting in the following equation for R_0:

$$R_0(T) = \left(\frac{a(T)^3 bc(T) e^{-\frac{\mu(T)}{PDR(T)}} EFGC(T) EV(T) pLA(T) MDR(T)}{N \, r \, \mu(T)^3} \right)^{1/2} \qquad \text{eq. S1}$$

All but two of the vector–virus parameterizations used this form (eq. S1) of the R_0 model (see Table S1, exceptions described below).

The fecundity data for *Cx. quinquefasciatus* were reported as eggs per raft (ER). Females lay rafts once per gonotrophic cycle. Thus, in order to obtain an approximation to EFD (eggs per female per day), we again divide by the number of days per gonotrophic cycle and, further, we multiply by the proportion of females ovipositing (pO), since not every female lays an egg raft. These changes result in the following equation for R_0:

$$R_0(T) = \left(\frac{a(T)^3 bc(T) e^{-\frac{\mu(T)}{PDR(T)}} ER(T) pO(T) EV(T) pLA(T) MDR(T)}{N \, r \, \mu(T)^3} \right)^{1/2} \qquad \text{eq. S2}$$

The *Cx. quinquefasciatus*–WNV model used eq. S2.

The *Ae. triseriatus*–EEEV also used eq. S2 (i.e., included *pO*) but substituted the *Cx. pipiens* thermal response for *EFGC* in place of the *Cx. quinquefasciatus* thermal response for *ER* for the following reasons. There were no fecundity trait data available for *Ae.* triseriatus. (*Ae. triseratus* was chosen as the focal species for the EEEV model because it is the only species with temperature-dependent vector competence data available, and it is a possible bridge vector for EEEV transmission to humans). *Cs. melanura* is the primary vector for maintaining enzootic cycles of EEEV in birds [7], more often cited in the literature in association with EEEV (e.g., [8]), and had data for *pO* (proportion ovipositing) available. Thus, we chose to include this thermal response in model because it contained information that could affect the upper and lower bounds of transmission (even though most models did not include *pO* [proportion ovipositing], because they use the *Cx. pipiens* EFGC [eggs per female per gonotrophic cycle] thermal response that includes *pO* implicitly). Then we needed to choose which egg production metric to include. We chose the *Cx. pipiens* EFGC thermal response over the *Cx. quinquefasciatus* ER thermal response because the former was the better choice according to both criteria: *Cx. pipiens* has a more similar species range to *Ae. triseriatus* and *Cs. melanura* and its thermal response was slightly more conservative (less restrictive = cooler lower thermal limit and warmer upper thermal limit). Although technically the units are not correct (see above), the thermal responses for *Cx. pipiens* EFGC and *Cx. quinquefasciatus* ER are so similar despite having different units (Fig 4B), we decided that the other two criteria were more important than being strict with regard to the units, as it is feasible to have an ER thermal response that is quite similar to the EFGC thermal response. Ultimately, because the thermal responses for EFGC and ER are so similar,

this decision only has a small impact on the R_0 results (see Fig S21A comparing four alternative

model specifications / parameterizations for the *Ae. triseriatus*-EEEV model).

In eqs. 2, S1, and S2, the remaining parameters that depend on temperature (*T*) are: adult

mosquito mortality (μ, the inverse of lifespan [*lf*]), pathogen development rate (*PDR*, the inverse

of the extrinsic incubation period: the time required for exposed mosquitoes to become

infectious), egg viability (proportion of eggs hatching into larvae, *EV*), proportion of larvae

surviving to adulthood (*pLA*), and mosquito development rate (*MDR*, the inverse of the

development period), and vector competence (*bc*, the proportion of exposed mosquitoes that

become infectious). Vector competence is the product of infection efficiency (*c*, the proportion

of exposed mosquitoes that develop a disseminated infection) and transmission efficiency (*b,* the

proportion of infected mosquitoes that become infectious, with virus present in saliva). The form

of vector competence varied between models based on the availability of data: *bc*(*T*) [reported a

single parameter], *c*(*T*)*b(*T*) [both parameters reported separately], *c*(*T*) only, or *b*(*T*) only (see

Table S1). The two remaining parameters do not depend on temperature: human density (*N*) and

the rate at which infected hosts recover and become immune (*r*).

Table S1: Trait thermal responses used in transmission (R_0) models. Viruses: West Nile (WNV), Eastern and Western Equine Encephalitis (EEEV and WEEV), St. Louis Encephalitis (SLEV), Sindbis (SINV), and Rift Valley Fever (RVFV). *Ae. vex. = Ae. vexans, Cs. mel. = Culiseta melanura*; all other vectors (*Cx. = Culex*) listed under model names. Traits are: fecundity (as eggs/female/gonotrophic cycle [*EFGC*] or eggs per raft*proportion ovipositing [*ER*pO*]), egg viability (*EV*), larval-to-adult survival (*pLA*), mosquito development rate (*MDR*), lifespan (*lf*), biting rate (*a*), vector competence (*bc*, *b*c*, *b*, or *c*, as available), and parasite development rate (*PDR*). The WNV−*Cx. quinquefasciatus* model uses eq. S2 (*ER*pO*); the EEEV–*Ae. triseriatus* model uses *EFGC* from *Cx. pipiens* and *pO* from *Cs. melanura*; all other models use eq. S1 (*EFGC*). When data were missing for a vector–virus pair, we substituted the most conservative (i.e., least restrictive of transmission) trait thermal response from a vector that occurs within the geographic range of disease transmission. Several models had multiple potentially valid choices for traits; we explain and show compare these alternative models with the main text versions in Fig S21. Checkmarks indicate a thermal response from the vector in the model name. The parasite development rate data for SINV was insensitive to temperature (Fig 4), so the trait thermal response was omitted from the SINV models ('NA').

Model: virus–vector	*EFGC* or *ER*pO*	*EV*	*pLA*	*MDR*	*lf*	*a*	*bc, c*b c, or b*	*PDR*
WNV–*Cx. pipiens*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ (bc)	✓
WNV–*Cx. quinquefasciatus*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*Cx. uni.* (c*b)	✓
WNV–*Cx. tarsalis*	*Cx. pip.*	*Cx. pip*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ (b)	✓
WNV–*Cx. univittatus*	*Cx. pip.*	*Cx. pip.*	*Cx. pip.*	*Cx. pip.*	*Cx. pip.*	*Cx. pip.*	✓ (bc)	✓
WEEV–*Cx. tarsalis*	*Cx. pip.*	*Cx. pip.*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ (c*b)	✓
SLEV–*Cx. tarsalis*	*Cx. pip.*	*Cx. pip.*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ (c*b)	✓
EEEV–*Ae. triseriatus*	*Cx. pip., Cs. mel.*	*Cx. pip.*	✓	✓	*Cx. pip.*	*Cs. mel.*	✓ (bc)	✓
SINV–*Cx. pipiens*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ (c)	NA
SINV–*Ae. taeniorhynchus*	*Cx. pip.*	*Ae. vex.*	*Ae. vex.*	*Ae. vex.*	✓	*Cx. pip.*	✓ (c)	NA
RVFV–*Ae. taeniorhynchus*	*Cx. pip.*	*Cx. the.*	*Ae. vex.*	*Ae. vex.*	✓	*Cx. pip.*	✓ (bc)	✓

Table S2: Trait thermal response functions, data sources, and posterior estimates: biting rate and fecundity traits. Asymmetrical responses fit with Brière function (**B**): $B(T) = qT(T - T_{min})(T_{max} - T)^{1/2}$; symmetrical responses fit with quadratic function (**Q**): $Q(T) = -q(T - T_{min})(T - T_{max})$. Median function coefficients and optima (with 95% credible intervals).

Trait / Species [data source]	F(x)	q (CIs)	T_{min} (CIs)	T_{max} (CIs)	T_{opt} (CIs)
Biting rate (*a*)					
Cx. pipiens [9–12]	B	$1.70 \cdot 10^{-4}$ (1.18–$2.29 \cdot 10^{-4}$)	9.4 (2.8–13.4)	39.6 (37.9–40.6)	32.7 (31.3–33.6)
Cx. quinquefasciatus [9,13]	B	$7.28 \cdot 10^{-5}$ (5.31–$11.8 \cdot 10^{-5}$)	3.1 (0.1–10.9)	39.3 (38.0–40.8)	31.9 (30.6–33.3)
Cx. tarsalis [13]	B	$1.67 \cdot 10^{-4}$ (0.87–$2.56 \cdot 10^{-4}$)	2.3 (0.1–9.4)	32.0 (30.6–41.7)	25.9 (24.8–33.9)
Cs. melanura [14]	B	$1.87 \cdot 10^{-4}$ (1.49–$2.31 \cdot 10^{-4}$)	7.8 (5.5–11.4)	31.8 (31.0–33.4)	26.4 (25.7–27.9)
Fecundity					
Cx. pipiens (*EFGC*) [12]	Q	$5.98 \cdot 10^{-1}$ (4.31–$7.91 \cdot 10^{-1}$)	5.3 (2.6–8.5)	38.9 (36.2–41.8)	22.1 (20.1–24.4)
Cx. quinquefasciatus (*ER*) [15,16]	Q	$6.36 \cdot 10^{-1}$ (4.50–$9.05 \cdot 10^{-1}$)	5.0 (1.3–9.8)	37.7 (34.8–40.7)	21.4 (18.9–24.4)
Proportion ovipositing (*pO*)					
Cx. pipiens [9,17]	Q	$4.45 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (2.54–$7.77 \cdot 10^{-3}$)	8.2 (4.6–12.1)	33.2 (30.1–37.5)	20.8 (18.6–23.4)
Cx. quinquefasciatus [9,15,17]	B	$6.67 \cdot 10^{-4}$ (5.80–$7.91 \cdot 10^{-4}$)	1.7 (0.2–4.8)	31.8 (31.1–32.2)	24.9 (21.8–26.0)
Cs. melanura [14]	Q	$6.31 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (4.52–$7.89 \cdot 10^{-3}$)	8.7 (6.9–10.4)	33.6 (32.5–35.4)	20.7 (16.9–22.3)
Egg viability (*EV*)					
Ae. vexans [18]		$1.24 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (0.73–$1.95 \cdot 10^{-3}$)	0 (0–1.6)	55.5 (45.9–74.1)	27.6 (20.4–34.0)
Cx. pipiens [12]	Q	$2.11 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (1.36–$3.05 \cdot 10^{-3}$)	3.2 (0.5–7.1)	42.6 (39.7–48.3)	23.0 (20.7–26.3)
Cx. quinquefasciatus [15,19]	B	$0.47 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (0.34–$0.62 \cdot 10^{-3}$)	13.6 (9.3–16.8)	38.0 (37.2–38.7)	32.1 (31.3–32.7)
Cx. theileri [20]	Q	$2.54 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (1.86–$3.41 \cdot 10^{-3}$)	5.5 (2.6–8)	45.4 (42.4–49.0)	23.6 (18.2–27.0)

Additional data sources for other species used for fitting priors only (priors were fit using all data except that of the focal species). Fecundity (*ER*): *Cx. pipiens molestus* [15], *Cx. pipiens pallens* [16], and *Ae. dorsalis* [21]. Proportion ovipositing (*pO*): *Cx. pipiens molestus* [15] and *Ae. dorsalis* [21]. Egg viability (*EV*): *Cx. pipiens molestus* [15], *Aedes dorsalis* [22], and *Ae. nigromaculis* [23]. See *Supplemental Methods: Priors for trait thermal responses*.

Table S3: Trait thermal response functions, data sources, and posterior estimates: larval traits. Asymmetrical responses fit with Brière function (**B**): $B(T) = qT(T - T_{min})(T_{max} - T)^{1/2}$; symmetrical responses fit with quadratic function (**Q**): $Q(T) = -q(T - T_{min})(T - T_{max})$. Median function coefficients and optima (with 95% credible intervals).

Trait / Species [data source]	F(x)	q (CIs)	T_{min} (CIs)	T_{max} (CIs)	T_{opt} (CIs)
Mosquito Dev. Rate (*MDR*)					
Ae. triseriatus [24]	B	$4.30 \cdot 10^{-5}$ $(3.01–5.83 \cdot 10^{-5})$	0.8 (0–7.5)	36.5 (34.6–39.5)	29.3 (27.8–31.9)
Ae. vexans [25,26]	B	$4.33 \cdot 10^{-5}$ $(3.34–5.50 \cdot 10^{-5})$	1.9 (0.1–10.5)	38.2 (37.0–39.5)	30.9 (29.8–32.2)
Cx. pipiens [9–11,17,27–29]	B	$3.76 \cdot 10^{-5}$ $(3.36–4.47 \cdot 10^{-5})$	0.1 (0–4.0)	38.5 (37.6–39.8)	30.9 (30.2–31.9)
Cx. quinquefasciatus [9,17,24,30,31]	B	$4.14 \cdot 10^{-5}$ $(3.46–5.26 \cdot 10^{-5})$	0.1 (0–5.5)	38.6 (37.4–40.6)	31.0 (30.0–32.6)
Cx. tarsalis [32–34]	B	$4.12 \cdot 10^{-5}$ $(3.15–5.47 \cdot 10^{-5})$	4.3 (0–8.4)	39.9 (37.9–42.2)	32.3 (31.0–34.0)
Cs. melanura [7]	B	$2.74 \cdot 10^{-5}$ $(1.64–4.72 \cdot 10^{-5})$	8.6 (0–16.8)	37.6 (35.1–40.4)	31.1 (28.7–33.7)
Larval survival (*p_{LA}*)					
Ae. triseriatus [24,35]	Q	$3.26 \cdot 10^{-3}$ $(1.95–5.18 \cdot 10^{-3})$	8.3 (4.9–11.4)	35.7 (32.9–39.7)	22.0 (19.9–24.6)
Ae. vexans [25,26]	Q	$3.29 \cdot 10^{-3}$ $(2.65–4.24 \cdot 10^{-3})$	9.1 (8.1–10.6)	40.8 (38.4–43.6)	25.0 (23.9–26.2)
Cx. pipiens [9–11,17,27–29]	Q	$3.60 \cdot 10^{-3}$ $(2.96–4.42 \cdot 10^{-3})$	7.8 (6.1–9.3)	38.4 (37.1–39.9)	23.1 (22.2–24.0)
Cx. quinquefasciatus [9,16,17,24,30,31,36]	Q	$4.26 \cdot 10^{-3}$ $(3.51–5.17 \cdot 10^{-3})$	8.9 (7.6–9.9)	37.7 (36.2–39.2)	23.3 (22.5–24.0)
Cx. tarsalis [32–34]	Q	$2.12 \cdot 10^{-3}$ $(1.52–3.08 \cdot 10^{-3})$	5.9 (3.0–8.8)	43.1 (39.8–47.5)	24.6 (22.9–26.4)
Cs. melanura [7]	Q	$3.03 \cdot 10^{-3}$ $(1.55–5.68 \cdot 10^{-3})$	10.1 (5.7–15.1)	36.2 (32.8–40.7)	23.2 (20.4–26.5)

Additional data sources for other species used for fitting priors only (priors were fit using all data except that of the focal species). Mosquito Development Rate (*MDR*): *Cx. pipiens molestus* [37,38], *Cx. pipiens pallens* [37], *Cx. restuans* [10,24,33,39], *Cx. salinarius* [24], *Ae. solicitans* [24], and *Ae. nigromaculis* [25]. Larval survival (*p_{LA}*): *Cx. pipiens molestus* [36,38], *Cx. pipiens pallens* [16], *Cx. restuans* [10,17,24,33,39], *Cx. salinarius* [24], *Ae. sollicitans* [24], *Ae. nigromaculis* [25]. See *Supplemental Methods: Priors for trait thermal responses*.

Table S4: Trait thermal response functions, data sources, and posterior estimates: vector competence traits. Asymmetrical responses fit with Brière function (**B**): B(T) = $qT(T - T_{min})(T_{max} - T)^{1/2}$; symmetrical responses fit with quadratic function (**Q**): Q(T) = $-q(T - T_{min})(T - T_{max})$. Median function coefficients and optima (with 95% credible intervals).

Trait / Species [data source]	F(x)	q (CIs)	T_{min} (CIs)	T_{max} (CIs)	T_{opt} (CIs)
Transmission efficiency (*b*)					
SLEV | *Cx. tarsalis* [40]	Q	$2.98 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (1.63–$5.31 \cdot 10^{-3}$)	10.8 (6.2–14.2)	41.6 (36.8–49.1)	26.2 (23.5–29.7)
WEEV | *Cx. tarsalis* [40]	Q	$3.17 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (1.65–$5.06 \cdot 10^{-3}$)	8.2 (5.1–10.7)	33.5 (31.0–38.9)	20.9 (19.2–23.2)
WNV | *Cx. tarsalis* [41]	Q	$2.94 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (1.91–$4.48 \cdot 10^{-3}$)	11.3 (7.6–14.0)	41.9 (37.7–47.0)	26.6 (23.9–29.3)
Infection efficiency (*c*)					
SINV | *Ae. taeniorhynchus* [42]	Q	$1.24 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (0.75–$2.17 \cdot 10^{-3}$)	1.4 (0–9.1)	48.4 (40.8–57.1)	25.4 (21.0–31.1)
SINV | *Cx. pipiens* [43]	Q	$1.33 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (0.47–$2.30 \cdot 10^{-3}$)	0 (0–0)	35.0 (28.1–61.1)	17.5 (14.1–30.5)
WNV | *Cx. pipiens* [44,45]	Q	$2.56 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (2.05–$3.19 \cdot 10^{-3}$)	15.6 (14.3–16.6)	52.2 (48.4–56.6)	33.9 (31.9–36.1)
SLEV | *Cx. tarsalis* [40]	Q	$2.03 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (1.28–$3.07 \cdot 10^{-3}$)	8.8 (6.6–10.6)	43.7 (38.9–51.4)	26.2 (24.2–29.7)
WEEV | *Cx. tarsalis* [40,46]	Q	$3.04 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (2.52–$3.68 \cdot 10^{-3}$)	1.3 (0.4–2.9)	38.8 (36.7–41.5)	15.5 (13.4–19.7)
Vector competence (*bc*)					
RVFV | *Ae. taeniorhynchus* [47]	Q	$1.51 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (1.03–$2.05 \cdot 10^{-3}$)	7.1 (2.8–9.8)	42.3 (39.3–46.5)	24.7 (22.0–27.0)
EEEV | *Ae. triseriatus* [48]	Q	$1.51 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (0.96–$2.24 \cdot 10^{-3}$)	7.0 (2.9–11.9)	50.3 (42.3–63.1)	28.8 (23.6–35.8)
WNV | *Cx. pipiens* [44]	Q	$3.05 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (1.68–$4.87 \cdot 10^{-3}$)	16.8 (15–17.9)	38.9 (36.1–44.1)	27.8 (26.6–30.1)
WEEV | *Cx. tarsalis* [46]	Q	$1.17 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (0.55–$2.36 \cdot 10^{-3}$)	5.1 (0.6–13.3)	37.0 (33.5–46.0)	21.4 (18.1–27.3)
WNV | *Cx. univittatus* [49]	Q	$2.32 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (1.58–$3.68 \cdot 10^{-3}$)	4.2 (1.5–7.1)	45.2 (39.6–53.0)	23.7 (19.4–27.3)

Table S5: Trait thermal response functions, data sources, and posterior estimates: parasite development rate. Asymmetrical responses fit with Brière function (**B**): $B(T) = qT(T - T_{min})(T_{max} - T)^{1/2}$; symmetrical responses fit with quadratic function (**Q**): $Q(T) = -q(T - T_{min})(T - T_{max})$. Median function coefficients and optima (with 95% credible intervals).

Trait / Species [data source]	F(x)	q (CIs)	T_{min} (CIs)	T_{max} (CIs)	T_{opt} (CIs)
Parasite Dev. Rate (*PDR*)					
RVFV | *Ae. taeniorhynchus* [47]	B	$8.84 \cdot 10^{-5}$ (2.51–$15.5 \cdot 10^{-5}$)	9.0 (5.4–13.8)	45.9 (41.9–50.3)	37.8 (34.5–41.3)
EEEV | *Ae. triseriatus* [48]	B	$7.05 \cdot 10^{-5}$ (5.21–$9.68 \cdot 10^{-5}$)	11.6 (7.0–16.4)	44.8 (40.6–49.4)	37.2 (33.8–41.1)
WNV | *Cx. pipiens* [44,45]	B	$7.38 \cdot 10^{-5}$ (5.38–$9.94 \cdot 10^{-5}$)	11.4 (7.3–15.0)	45.2 (40.7–50.3)	37.5 (33.8–41.6)
WNV | *Cx. quinquefasciatus* [50]	B	$7.12 \cdot 10^{-5}$ (4.58–$10.2 \cdot 10^{-5}$)	19.0 (12.9–21.0)	44.1 (38.8–50.4)	37.7 (33.6–42.7)
SLEV | *Cx. tarsalis* [40]	B	$7.11 \cdot 10^{-5}$ (5.60–$8.95 \cdot 10^{-5}$)	12.8 (10.3–14.3)	45.2 (40.2–51.5)	37.7 (33.8–42.6)
WEEV | *Cx. tarsalis* [40,46]	B	$6.43 \cdot 10^{-5}$ (4.44–$10.4 \cdot 10^{-5}$)	4.0 (0–12.6)	44.0 (38.3–50.9)	35.7 (31.0–41.4)
WNV | *Cx. tarsalis* [41]	B	$6.57 \cdot 10^{-5}$ (5.11–$8.85 \cdot 10^{-5}$)	11.2 (7.9–14.9)	44.7 (40.4–49.4)	37.0 (33.6–40.9)
WNV | *Cx. univittatus* [49]	B	$7.54 \cdot 10^{-5}$ (4.13–$11.1 \cdot 10^{-5}$)	10.2 (7.1–15.3)	34.4 (31.2–51.1)	28.8 (26.1–42.5)
SINV | *Ae. taeniorhynchus* [42]	NA	Not fitted because lack of temperature sensitivity			

Table S6: Trait thermal response functions, data sources, and posterior estimates: lifespan. Responses fit with a linear function (**L**): $L(T) = -mT + z$. Median function coefficients and T_{max} (with 95% credible intervals).

Trait / Species [data source]	F(x)	m	z	Tmax = z/m
Lifespan (*lf*)				
Ae. taeniorhynchus [51]	L	2.02 (1.59–3.19)	85.9 (73.8–117.6)	42.7 (34.5–48.5)
Cx. pipiens [11,17,52]	L	4.86 (3.83–5.84)	169.8 (142.1–195.6)	34.9 (32.9–37.9)
Cx. quinquefasciatus [17,36]	L	3.80 (1.85–5.29)	136.3 (86.8–174.0)	35.9 (32.1–48.5)
Cx. tarsalis [32]	L	1.69 (1.12–2.24)	69.6 (55.8–83.5)	41.3 (36.6–50.8)

Additional data sources for other species used for fitting priors only (priors were fit using all data except that of the focal species). Lifespan (*lf*): *Cx. pipiens molestus* [36,37], *Cx. pipiens pallens* [37], and *Cx. restuans* [17]. See *Supplemental Methods: Priors for trait thermal responses*.

Table S7: Priors for trait thermal response functions: mosquito traits with unimodal responses. Gamma distribution parameters (α [shape] and β [rate]) for priors for fitting thermal response parameters (T_{min}, T_{max}, and q). Scaled variances are noted in parentheses, either by the system name (applied to all parameters) or by individual parameters. See *Supplemental Methods: Priors for trait thermal responses*.

Trait / System	q: α	q: β	T_{min}: α	T_{min}: β	T_{max}: α	T_{max}: β
Biting rate (*a*)						
Cx. pipiens (0.5)	8.84	64200	1.91	0.367	103	3.00
Cx. quinquefasciatus	39.1	234133	8.82	0.997	2992	75.8
	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)		
Cx. tarsalis	40.1	227752	18.7	1.745	unif.	unif.
	(0.05)	(0.05)	(0.05)	(0.05)		
Cs. melanura	35.4	229694	7.77	0.895	2714	68.5
	(0.75)	(0.75)	(0.75)	(0.75)	(0.1)	(0.1)
Fecundity						
Cx. pipiens (*EFGC*) (3)	9.23	15.6	2.38	0.419	139	3.52
Cx. quinquefasciatus (*ER*)	19.1	30.44	2.87	0.600	486	13.2
Prop. ovipositing (*pO*)						
Cx. pipiens (0.5)	9.50	1823	14.8	1.495	263	7.14
Cx. quinquefasciatus	32.9	55242	1.41	0.397	3346	106
Cs. melanura	14.4	2635	22.0	2.254	588	16.8
Egg viability (*EV*)						
Ae. vexans (0.01)	26.6	12259	11.6	1.916	486	10.8
Cx. pipiens (0.2)	29.4	14525	8.83	1.579	514	11.1
Cx. quinquefasciatus (0.1)	101	262268	1.08	1.032	1361	34.9
Cx. theileri	5.86	2266	4.46	0.591	266	6.06
Mos. dev. rate (*MDR*)						
Ae. triseriatus (0.2)	118	2697528	1.93	0.703	5542	145
Ae. vexans (0.5)	119	2739401	1.89	0.689	6661	174
Cx. pipiens (0.1)	71.9	1545915	2.03	0.596	2912	76.5
Cx. quinquefasciatus (0.1)	113	2569782	1.81	0.651	5900	155
Cx. tarsalis (0.1)	129	2940582	1.49	0.660	6431	169
Cs. melanura (0.1)	129	2941063	1.78	0.685	6915	181
Larval survival (*pLA*)						
Ae. triseriatus (0.05)	163	46723	231	27.3	4667	122
Ae. vexans (0.05)	135	37701	210	24.6	4040	107
Cx. pipiens (0.1)	102	27382	217	24.2	2872	76.7
Cx. quinquefasciatus (0.1)	88.8	26461	123	14.8	2608	68.4
Cx. tarsalis (0.025)	94.6	23240	237	26.2	2564	69.5
Cs. melanura (0.05)	148.9	41533	239	27.8	4391	116

Table S8: Priors for trait thermal response functions: infection traits. Gamma distribution parameters (α [shape] and β [rate]) for priors for fitting thermal response parameters (T_{min}, T_{max}, and q). Scaled variances are noted in parentheses, either by the system name (applied to all parameters) or by individual parameters. See *Supplemental Methods: Priors for trait thermal responses*.

Trait / System	q: α	q: β	T_{min}: α	T_{min}: β	T_{max}: α	T_{max}: β
Transmission efficiency (*b*)	7.72	3202	9.97	1.268	114	2.9
SLEV | *Cx. tarsalis* (0.5)	9.49	2373	79.6	6.181	153	3.74
WEEV | *Cx. tarsalis* (0.1)	8.46	3056	12.1	1.455	134	3.5
WNV | *Cx. tarsalis*	7.72	3202	9.97	1.268	114	2.9
Infection efficiency (*c*)						
SINV | *Ae. taeniorhynchus* (0.1)	61.7	45102	2.49	0.815	1214	25.1
SINV | *Cx. pipiens* (0.01)	57.3	40236	2.64	0.799	1124	23.28
WNV | *Cx. pipiens*	28.5	15944	1.44	0.852	237	5.393
SLEV | *Cx. tarsalis*	65.2	46656	1.67	0.692	1071	22.2
	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.1)	(0.1)
WEEV | *Cx. tarsalis* (0.01)	82.2	35791	392	30.502	1264	26.1
Vector competence (*bc*)						
RVFV | *Ae. taeniorhynchus* (2)	8.4	4775	2.316	0.421	147	3.39
EEEV | *Ae. triseriatus*	6.68	3612	2.027	0.383	119	2.86
	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(0.01)	(0.01)
WNV | *Cx. pipiens* (0.5)	17.6	7857	1.403	0.534	219	5.42
WEEV | *Cx. tarsalis* (0.5)	9.56	5344	3.021	0.498	180	4.05
WNV | *Cx. univittatus*	13.7	2327	380	22.434	527	14.4
	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.1)	(0.1)
Parasite dev. rate (*PDR*)						
RVFV | *Ae. taeniorhynchus*	20.2	331065	8.69	0.893	227	4.96
	(0.2)	(0.2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
EEEV | *Ae. triseriatus* (2)	13.2	167635	6.76	0.609	183	4.05
WNV | *Cx. pipiens*	8.71	113904	3.51	0.356	140	3.17
	(2)	(2)	(5)	(5)	(2)	(2)
WNV | *Cx. quinquefasciatus*	15.8	201154	8.09	0.772	202	4.44
SLEV | *Cx. tarsalis*	11.8	151149	6.31	0.584	179	3.97
WEEV | *Cx. tarsalis*	10.3	117795	9.97	0.768	162	3.62
			(0.05)	(0.05)		
WNV | *Cx. tarsalis* (2)	11.7	148079	5.92	0.541	169	3.77
WNV | *Cx. univittatus*	12.3	146439	9.02	0.773	174	3.87
			(3)	(3)	(0.2)	(0.2)

Table S9: Priors for trait thermal response functions: lifespan. Gamma distribution parameters (α [shape] and β [rate]) for priors for fitting thermal response parameters (*m* and *z*). Scaled variances are noted in parentheses, either by the system name (applied to all parameters) or by individual parameters. See *Supplemental Methods: Priors for trait thermal responses*.

Trait / System (var.)	*m*: *α*	*m*: *β*	*z*: *α*	*z*: *β*
Lifespan (*lf*)				
Ae. taeniorhynchus (0.01)	119	52.9	268	3.19
Cx. pipiens (0.01)	117	42.4	238	2.39
Cx. quinquefasciatus (0.01)	110	32.9	207	1.78
Cx. tarsalis (0.1)	124	43.0	249	2.42

Supplemental Methods: Priors for trait thermal responses

We used gamma distribution parameters (α [shape] and β [rate]) for informative priors for each thermal response parameter (Brière and quadratic functions: T_{min}, T_{max}, and q); linear functions: m and z). First, we fit a thermal response function (with uniform priors) to all the *Aedes* and *Culex* data for a given trait except that of the focal vector species or vector–virus pair (i.e., the parameters for the priors for *a* for *Culex pipiens* were fit to the *a* data for all species except *Cx. pipiens*). Then we used the 'MASS' package in R to fit a gamma distribution hyperparameters to the distribution from each thermal response parameters.

The mean of the gamma distribution is equal to α/β, while the variance is determined by the magnitude of the parameters (smaller values = higher variance). When fitting thermal responses, the appropriate strength for the priors depends on the amount of data used to fit the priors and the amount of the data for the focal trait. Prior strengths can be modified by scaling the variance (i.e., multiplying the gamma parameters by <1 to increase the variance or >1 to decrease the variance) without impacting the mean. In many cases we had to increase the variance because of the large number of data points used to fit priors. In a few cases, we had to decrease the variation (e.g., to constrain T_{max} for Briere functions for *PDR* where we had no observations at high temperatures, in order to make it so *PDR* would not constrain R_0 where there was no data). For biting rate (*a*) for *Culex tarsalis*, we used a likelihood function where T_{min} and q had data informed priors and T_{max} had uniform priors (as used to fit the priors) in order to best capture the thermal response of the data.

Supplemental Methods: Sensitivity and uncertainty analyses

We performed two sensitivity analyses and one uncertainty analysis to understand what traits were most important for determining and contributing to uncertainty in the thermal limits and optima. For the first sensitivity analysis, we calculated the partial derivatives of R_0 with respect to each trait across temperature (T) and multiplied it by the derivative of the trait with temperature (i.e., the slope of the thermal response). Equations S3-S6 (below) apply to both versions of the R_0 model (eqs. S1 and S2). Equation S3 is for to all traits (x) that appear once in the numerator. Equation S4, for biting rate (a), differs from previous analyses [2–6] because biting rate was cubed to account for fecundity measured per gonotrophic cycle rather than per day. Equation S5 is for parasite development rate (PDR), and equation S6 is for lifespan (lf).

$$\frac{\partial R_0}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial T} = \frac{R_0}{2x} \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial T} \qquad\qquad \text{eq. S3}$$

$$\frac{\partial R_0}{\partial a} \cdot \frac{\partial a}{\partial T} = \frac{3R_0}{2a} \cdot \frac{\partial a}{\partial T} \qquad\qquad \text{eq. S4}$$

$$\frac{\partial R_0}{\partial PDR} \cdot \frac{\partial PDR}{\partial T} = \frac{R_0}{2\, lf\, PDR^2} \cdot \frac{\partial PDR}{\partial T} \qquad\qquad \text{eq. S5}$$

$$\frac{\partial R_0}{\partial lf} \cdot \frac{\partial lf}{\partial T} = \frac{R_0(1+3PDR)}{2\, PDR\, lf^2} \cdot \frac{\partial lf}{\partial T} \qquad\qquad \text{eq. S6}$$

For the second sensitivity analysis, we held single traits constant while allowing all other traits to vary with temperature. For the uncertainty analysis, we calculated the 'total uncertainty' across temperature as the width of the 95% highest posterior density (HPD) interval across temperature for the full model. Then, we calculated the HPD for 'uncertainty for each trait' by fixing all traits except the focal trait at their posterior median value across temperature, while keeping the full posterior sample of the focal trait. Then, we divided the uncertainty for each trait by the total uncertainty, calculated across temperature, to estimate the proportion of uncertainty in R_0 that was due to the uncertainty in the focal trait.

Figure S1: Thermal responses for mosquito traits in additional vector species: *Ae. taeniorhynchus* (green), *Ae. triseriatus* (violet), *Aedes vexans* (teal), *Cx. theileri* (pink), and *Culiseta melanura* (brown). **(A)** Mosquito development rate (*MDR*), (B) larval-to-adult survival (*pLA*), and (C) biting rate (*a*), (D) lifespan (*lf*), (E) proportion ovipositing (*pO*) and (F) egg viability (*EV*). Points without error bars are reported means from single studies; points with error bars are averages of means from multiple studies (+/- standard error, for visual clarity only; thermal responses were fit to reported means). Solid lines are posterior distribution means; shaded areas are 95% credible intervals.

Figure S2: Thermal responses for biting rate (*a*) showing individual data points. (A) *Culex pipiens*, (B), *Cx. quinquefasciatus*, (C) *Cx. tarsalis*, and (D) *Culiseta melanura*. Solid lines are posterior distribution means for the mean thermal response; black dashed lines are 95% credible intervals for the mean thermal response; red dashed lines are 95% prediction intervals for observed data (incorporating the fitted variance).

Figure S3: Thermal responses for larval-to-adult survival (*pLA*) showing individual data points. (A) *Culex pipiens*, (B), *Cx. quinquefasciatus*, (C) *Cx. tarsalis*, (D) *Aedes vexans*, (E) *Ae. triseriatus*, and (F) *Culiseta melanura*. Solid lines are posterior distribution means for the mean thermal response; black dashed lines are 95% credible intervals for the mean thermal response; red dashed lines are 95% prediction intervals for observed data (incorporating the fitted variance).

Figure S4: Thermal responses for mosquito development rate (*MDR*) showing individual data points. (A) *Culex pipiens*, (B), *Cx. quinquefasciatus*, (C) *Cx. tarsalis*, (D) *Aedes vexans*, (E) *Ae. triseriatus*, and (F) *Culiseta melanura*. Solid lines are posterior distribution means for the mean thermal response; black dashed lines are 95% credible intervals for the mean thermal response; red dashed lines are 95% prediction intervals for observed data (incorporating the fitted variance).

Figure S5: Thermal responses for adult mosquito lifespan (*lf*) showing individual data points. (A) *Culex pipiens*, (B), *Cx. quinquefasciatus*, (C) *Cx. tarsalis*, and (D) *Aedes taeniorhynchus*. When data were reported by sex, only female data were used. Solid lines are posterior distribution means for the mean thermal response; black dashed lines are 95% credible intervals for the mean thermal response; red dashed lines are 95% prediction intervals for observed data (incorporating the fitted variance).

Figure S6: Thermal responses for fecundity traits showing individual data points. Traits: (A) Reproduction measured as eggs per female per gonotrophic cycle (*EFGC*), (B) reproduction measured as eggs per raft (*ER*) (C–E) proportion ovipositing (*pO*), and (F–I) egg viability (*EV*). Vector species: (A,C,F) *Culex pipiens*, (B,D,G), *Cx. quinquefasciatus*, (E) *Culiseta melanura*, (H) *Cx. theileri*, and (I) *Aedes vexans*. Solid lines are posterior distribution means for the mean thermal response; black dashed lines are 95% credible intervals for the mean thermal response; red dashed lines are 95% prediction intervals for observed data (incorporating the fitted variance).

Figure S7: Thermal responses for pathogen development rate (*PDR*) showing individual data points. (A) West Nile virus (WNV) in *Culex pipiens*, (B), WNV in *Cx. quinquefasciatus*, (C) WNV in *Cx. tarsalis*, (D) WNV in *Cx. univittatus*, (E) St. Louis Encephalitis virus (SLEV) in *Cx. tarsalis*, (F) Western Equine Encephalitis virus (WEEV) in *Cx. tarsalis*, and (G) Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEEV) in *Aedes triseriatus*. Solid lines are posterior distribution means for the mean thermal response; black dashed lines are 95% credible intervals for the mean thermal response; red dashed lines are 95% prediction intervals for observed data (incorporating the fitted variance).

Figure S8: Thermal responses for vector competence traits in *Culex tarsalis*, showing individual data points. Traits: (A,B,F) transmission efficiency (*b*, # transmitting / # infected), (C,E) infection efficiency (*c*, # infected / # exposed), and (D) vector competence (*bc*, # infected / # exposed). Viruses: (A) West Nile virus (WNV), (B–D) Western Equine Encephalitis virus (WEEV), (E,F) St. Louis Encephalitis virus (SLEV). Solid lines are posterior distribution means for the mean thermal response; black dashed lines are 95% credible intervals for the mean thermal response; red dashed lines are 95% prediction intervals for observed data (incorporating the fitted variance).

Figure S9: Thermal responses for vector competence traits showing individual data points.
Traits: (A,E,F) infection efficiency (*c*, # infected / # exposed) and (B,C,D,G) vector competence
(*bc*, # infected / # exposed). Viruses and vectors: (A,B) West Nile virus (WNV) in *Culex pipiens*,
(C) WNV in *Cx. univittatus*, (D) Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEEV) in *Ae. triseriatus*, (E)
Sindbis virus (SINV) in *Culex pipiens*, (F) SINV in *Aedes taeniorhynchus*, and (G) Rift Valley
Fever virus (RVFV) in *Ae. taeniorhynchus*. Solid lines are posterior distribution means for the
mean thermal response; black dashed lines are 95% credible intervals for the mean thermal
response; red dashed lines are 95% prediction intervals for observed data (incorporating the
fitted variance).

Figure S10: Medians & 95% credible intervals for thermal limits and optima of R_0 models across temperate and tropical mosquito-borne disease systems. Models in order from top to bottom: Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEEV) in *Aedes triseriatus* (dark purple; this paper), Western Equine Encephalitis virus (WEEV) in *Culex. tarsalis* (light purple; this paper), Sindbis virus (SINV) in *Cx. pipiens* (dark blue; this paper), West Nile virus (WNV) in *Cx. univittatus* (medium blue; this paper), WNV in *Cx. tarsalis* (light blue, this paper), St. Louis Encephalitis virus (SLEV) in *Cx. tarsalis* (dark teal; this paper), WNV in *Cx. pipiens* (light teal; this paper), WNV in *Cx. quinquefasciatus* (dark green; this paper), *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria in *Anopheles* spp. (light green; [3]), Rift Valley Fever virus (RVFV) in *Ae. taeniorhynchus* (yellow; this paper), SINV in *Ae. taeniorhynchus* (light orange; this paper), Ross River virus (RRV) in *Cx. annulirostris* (medium orange, [5]), dengue virus (DENV) in *Ae. albopictus* (dark orange; [4]), Murray Valley Encephalitis virus (MVEV) in *Cx. annulirostris* (light red, [5]), Zika virus (ZIKV) in *Ae. aegypti* (medium red; [6]), DENV in *Ae. aegypti* (dark red; [4]). Figure modified from [53].

Figure S11: Temperature-dependent R_0, sensitivity analyses, and uncertainty analysis for model of West Nile Virus (WNV) in *Culex pipiens*. (A) Median temperature-dependent R_0 (black line) with 95% credible intervals (dashed red lines). (B) Sensitivity analysis #1: derivative with respect to temperature for R_0 (black) and partial derivatives with respect to temperature for each trait. (C) Sensitivity analysis #2: relative R_0 calculated with single traits held constant. (D) Uncertainty analysis using highest posterior density (HPD) interval widths: the proportion of total uncertainty due to each trait. (B-D) Trait colors: biting rate (*a*, red), vector competence (*bc*, orange), adult lifespan (*lf*, green), parasite development rate (*PDR*, cyan), fecundity (*EFGC*, light blue), egg viability (*EV*, dark blue), larval survival (*pLA*, purple), and mosquito development rate (*MDR*, pink). All traits from *Cx. pipiens*.

WNV in *Cx. pipiens*

Figure S12: Temperature-dependent R_0, sensitivity analyses, and uncertainty analysis for model of West Nile Virus (WNV) in *Culex quinquefasciatus*. (A) Median temperature-dependent R_0 (black line) with 95% credible intervals (dashed red lines). (B) Sensitivity analysis #1: derivative with respect to temperature for R_0 (black) and partial derivatives with respect to temperature for each trait. (C) Sensitivity analysis #2: relative R_0 calculated with single traits held constant. (D) Uncertainty analysis using highest posterior density (HPD) interval widths: the proportion of total uncertainty due to each trait. (B-D) Trait colors: biting rate (*a*, red), vector competence (*bc*, orange), adult lifespan (*lf*, green), parasite development rate (*PDR*, cyan), fecundity (*EFGC*, light blue), egg viability (*EV*, dark blue), larval survival (*pLA*, purple), mosquito development rate (*MDR*, pink), and proportion ovipositing (*pO*, grey). Vector competence (*bc*) from *Cx. univitattus*; all other traits from *Cx. quinquefasciatus*.

Figure S13: Temperature-dependent R_0, sensitivity analyses, and uncertainty analysis for model of West Nile Virus (WNV) in *Culex tarsalis*. (A) Median temperature-dependent R_0 (black line) with 95% credible intervals (dashed red lines). (B) Sensitivity analysis #1: derivative with respect to temperature for R_0 (black) and partial derivatives with respect to temperature for each trait. (C) Sensitivity analysis #2: relative R_0 calculated with single traits held constant. (D) Uncertainty analysis using highest posterior density (HPD) interval widths: the proportion of total uncertainty due to each trait. (B-D) Trait colors: biting rate (*a*, red), transmission efficiency (*b*, orange), adult lifespan (*lf*, green), parasite development rate (*PDR*, cyan), fecundity (*EFGC*, light blue), egg viability (*EV*, dark blue), larval survival (*pLA*, purple), and mosquito development rate (*MDR*, pink). Fecundity (*EFGC*) and egg viability (*EV*) from *Cx. pipiens*; all other traits from *Cx. tarsalis*.

Figure S14: Temperature-dependent *R_0*, sensitivity analyses, and uncertainty analysis for model of West Nile Virus (WNV) in *Culex univittatus*. (A) Median temperature-dependent R_0 (black line) with 95% credible intervals (dashed red lines). (B) Sensitivity analysis #1: derivative with respect to temperature for R_0 (black) and partial derivatives with respect to temperature for each trait. (C) Sensitivity analysis #2: relative R_0 calculated with single traits held constant. (D) Uncertainty analysis using highest posterior density (HPD) interval widths: the proportion of total uncertainty due to each trait. (B-D) Trait colors: biting rate (*a*, red), vector competence (*bc*, orange), adult lifespan (*lf*, green), parasite development rate (*PDR*, cyan), fecundity (*EFGC*, light blue), egg viability (*EV*, dark blue), larval survival (*pLA*, purple), and mosquito development rate (*MDR*, pink). Infection traits (*bc* and *PDR*) from *Cx. univittatus*; all other traits from *Cx. pipiens*.

Figure S15: Temperature-dependent R_0, sensitivity analyses, and uncertainty analysis for St. model of St. Louis Encephalitis Virus (SLEV) in *Culex tarsalis*. (A) Median temperature-dependent R_0 (black line) with 95% credible intervals (dashed red lines). (B) Sensitivity analysis #1: derivative with respect to temperature for R_0 (black) and partial derivatives with respect to temperature for each trait. (C) Sensitivity analysis #2: relative R_0 calculated with single traits held constant. (D) Uncertainty analysis using highest posterior density (HPD) interval widths: the proportion of total uncertainty due to each trait. (B-D) Trait colors: biting rate (*a*, red), transmission efficiency (*b*, orange), infection efficiency (*c*, brown), adult lifespan (*lf*, green), parasite development rate (*PDR*, cyan), fecundity (*EFGC*, light blue), egg viability (*EV*, dark blue), larval survival (*pLA*, purple), and mosquito development rate (*MDR*, pink). Fecundity (*EFGC*) and egg viability (*EV*) from *Cx. pipiens*; all other traits from *Cx. tarsalis*.

Figure S16: Temperature-dependent *R_0*, sensitivity analyses, and uncertainty analysis for model of Western Equine Encephalitis Virus (WEEV) in *Culex tarsalis*. (A) Median temperature-dependent *R_0* (black line) with 95% credible intervals (dashed red lines). (B) Sensitivity analysis #1: derivative with respect to temperature for *R_0* (black) and partial derivatives with respect to temperature for each trait. (C) Sensitivity analysis #2: relative *R_0* calculated with single traits held constant. (D) Uncertainty analysis using highest posterior density (HPD) interval widths: the proportion of total uncertainty due to each trait. (B-D) Trait colors: biting rate (*a*, red), transmission efficiency (*b*, orange), infection efficiency (*c*, brown), adult lifespan (*lf*, green), parasite development rate (*PDR*, cyan), fecundity (*EFGC*, light blue), egg viability (*EV*, dark blue), larval survival (*pLA*, purple), and mosquito development rate (*MDR*, pink). Fecundity (*EFGC*) and egg viability (*EV*) from *Cx. pipiens*; all other traits from *Cx. tarsalis*.

Figure S17: Temperature-dependent R_0, sensitivity analyses, and uncertainty analysis for model of Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus in *Aedes triseriatus*. (A) Median temperature-dependent R_0 (black line) with 95% credible intervals (dashed red lines). (B) Sensitivity analysis #1: derivative with respect to temperature for R_0 (black) and partial derivatives with respect to temperature for each trait. (C) Sensitivity analysis #2: relative R_0 calculated with single traits held constant. (D) Uncertainty analysis using highest posterior density (HPD) interval widths: the proportion of total uncertainty due to each trait. (B-D) Trait colors: biting rate (*a*, red), vector competence (*bc*, orange), adult lifespan (*lf*, green), parasite development rate (*PDR*, cyan), fecundity (*EFGC*, light blue), egg viability (*EV*, dark blue), larval survival (*pLA*, purple), mosquito development rate (*MDR*, pink), and proportion ovipositing (*pO*, grey). Fecundity (*EFGC*), egg viability (*EV*), and lifespan (*lf*) from *Cx. pipiens*; biting rate (*a*) and proportion ovipositing (*pO*) from *Culiseta melanura*; all other traits from *Ae. triseriatus*. Note: technically fecundity as eggs per female per gonotrophic cycle (*EFGC*) has already accounted for the proportion ovipositing (*pO*). However, we selected this trait fit because it was very similar to the *ER* thermal response from *Cx. quinquefasciatus*, but slightly wider (more conservative).

Figure S18: Temperature-dependent R_0, sensitivity analyses, and uncertainty analysis for model of Sindbis Virus in *Culex pipiens*. (A) Median temperature-dependent R_0 (black line) with 95% credible intervals (dashed red lines). (B) Sensitivity analysis #1: derivative with respect to temperature for R_0 (black) and partial derivatives with respect to temperature for each trait. (C) Sensitivity analysis #2: relative R_0 calculated with single traits held constant. (D) Uncertainty analysis using highest posterior density (HPD) interval widths: the proportion of total uncertainty due to each trait. (B-D) Trait colors: biting rate (*a*, red), infection efficiency (*c*, brown), adult lifespan (*lf*, green), fecundity (*EFGC*, light blue), egg viability (*EV*, dark blue), larval survival (*pLA*, purple), and mosquito development rate (*MDR*, pink). All traits from *Cx. pipiens*. NOTE: The raw R_0 calculation used $PDR = 1$, which is not biologically reasonable trait value.

SINV in *Cx. pipiens*

Figure S19: Temperature-dependent R_0, sensitivity analyses, and uncertainty analysis for model of Sindbis Virus in *Aedes taeniorhynchus*. (A) Median temperature-dependent R_0 (black line) with 95% credible intervals (dashed red lines). (B) Sensitivity analysis #1: derivative with respect to temperature for R_0 (black) and partial derivatives with respect to temperature for each trait. (C) Sensitivity analysis #2: relative R_0 calculated with single traits held constant. (D) Uncertainty analysis using highest posterior density (HPD) interval widths: the proportion of total uncertainty due to each trait. (B-D) Trait colors: biting rate (*a*, red), infection efficiency (*c*, brown), adult lifespan (*lf*, green), fecundity (*EFGC*, light blue), egg viability (*EV*, dark blue), larval survival (*pLA*, purple), and mosquito development rate (*MDR*, pink). Fecundity (*EFGC*) and biting rate (*a*) from *Culex pipiens*; egg viability (EV) and larval traits (*pLA* and *MDR*) from *Ae. vexans*; all other traits from *Ae. taeniorhynchus*. NOTE: The raw R_0 calculation used *PDR* = 1, which is not biologically reasonable trait value.

Figure S20: Temperature-dependent R_0, sensitivity analyses, and uncertainty analysis for model of Rift Valley Fever Virus in *Aedes taeniorhynchus*. (A) Median temperature-dependent R_0 (black line) with 95% credible intervals (dashed red lines). (B) Sensitivity analysis #1: derivative with respect to temperature for R_0 (black) and partial derivatives with respect to temperature for each trait. (C) Sensitivity analysis #2: relative R_0 calculated with single traits held constant. (D) Uncertainty analysis using highest posterior density (HPD) interval widths: the proportion of total uncertainty due to each trait. (B-D) Trait colors: biting rate (*a*, red), vector competence (*bc*, orange), adult lifespan (*lf*, green), parasite development rate (*PDR*, cyan), fecundity (*EFGC*, light blue), egg viability (*EV*, dark blue), larval survival (*pLA*, purple), and mosquito development rate (*MDR*, pink). Fecundity (*EFGC*) and biting rate (*a*) from *Culex pipiens*; egg viability (EV) from *Cx. theileri*; larval traits (*pLA* and *MDR*) from *Ae. vexans*; all other traits from *Ae. taeniorhynchus*.

Figure S21: Histograms of *Tmin*, optimum, and *Tmax* for transmission (*R₀*) models. T_{min} (left column), optimum (center column), and T_{max} (right column). Top row (A-C): West Nile virus (WNV) in four vectors: *Culex pipiens* (grey), *Cx. quinquefasciatus* (red), *Cx. tarsalis* (blue), and *Cx. univitattus* (orange). Middle row (D-F): three viruses in *Cx. tarsalis*: WNV (same as in top row, bright blue), Western Equine Encephalitis virus (WEEV, light blue), and St. Louis Encephalitis virus (SLEV, dark blue). Bottom row (H-J): Sindbis virus (SINV) in *Aedes taeniorhynchus* (grey), SINV in *Cx. pipiens* (dark green), Rift Valley Fever virus (RVFV) in *Ae. taeniorhynchus* (light green), and Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEEV) in *Ae. triseriatus* (purple).

Figure S22: Comparing alternative model parameterizations. Several models had multiple potentially valid choices for traits; we show these alternative models here (dashed lines; base models from main text in solid lines) to show that they make very little difference, except in D. (A) Models for EEEV in *Ae. triseriatus* with larval traits (larval-to-adult survival [*pLA*] and mosquito development rate [*MDR*]) from *Ae. triseriatus* (violet, from the main text) and larval traits from *Cs. melanura* (black). We also show larval traits from *Cs. melanura* without proportion ovipositing (*pO*) in the model (grey), since the thermal responses for *EFCG* (eggs per female per gonotrophic cycle, in *Cx. pipiens*) and *ER* (eggs per raft, in *Cx. quinquefasciatus*) were nearly identical even though the units were different, probably because the ER data were not very informative and the priors strongly shaped the thermal response. (B) Models for WNV in *Cx. quinquefasciatus*, with (light red, from the main text) and without (dark red) the thermal response for fecundity (as eggs per raft, *ER*), for the same reason as in A. (C) Models for WEEV in *Cx. tarsalis* with vector competence estimated by infection efficiency (*c*, Fig 6D) and transmission efficiency (*b*, Fig 6E) measured separately (blue, from the main text) or by vector competence measured as a single trait (*bc*, Fig 6F; light blue). (D) Models for RVFV in *Ae. taeniorhynchus* with lifespan from *Ae. taeniorhynchus* (light green, from the main text) or from *Cx. pipiens* (dark green). We chose the *Ae. taeniorhynchus* version for the main text because it is the same species the infection traits (*PDR*, *bc*) were measured in, and that choice strongly impacted the results.

Figure S23: Comparison with previous R_0 models for transmission of West Nile virus. Models taken from this paper (solid lines: *Cx. pipiens* [grey], *Cx. quinquefasciatus* [red], *Cx. tarsalis* [blue], and *Cx. univittatus* [orange]), from Paull et al. 2017 [50] (dashed lines: *Cx. pipiens* [grey], *Cx. quinquefasciatus* [red], and *Cx. tarsalis* [blue]), from Vogels et al. 2017 [54] (*Cx. pipiens* [grey] and *Cx. pipiens molestus* [black]), and from Kushmaro et al. 2015 [55] (not species specific, dot-dashed line [brown]).

Figure S24: GAM models of mean WNV incidence as a function of average summer temperature. (A-F) Models are fit with differing numbers of knots (4–9). In all models, incidence peaks around 24°C (T_{opt} = 23.5–24.2°C).

Table S10: GAM models of mean WNV incidence as a function of average summer temperature. Statistics for models fit with differing numbers of knots: edf (estimated degrees of freedom), Ref-df, F, and p-value refer to the smoothed temperature term (see Fig S24 for plots). Dev. exp. = percent deviance explained. T_{opt} = temperature of peak incidence.

Panel in Fig S24	# knots	edf	Ref-df	F	p-value	Adj. R^2	Dev. exp. (%)	T_{opt}
A	k = 4	2.96	2.99	15.87	$4.03 \cdot 10^{-10}$	0.018	2.33	23.8°C
B	k = 5	3.77	3.97	11.11	$4.64 \cdot 10^{-9}$	0.019	2.44	24.2°C
C	k = 6	4.71	4.96	11.97	$4.77 \cdot 10^{-11}$	0.022	2.85	23.5°C
D	k = 7	5.53	5.92	11.01	$1.31 \cdot 10^{-11}$	0.024	3.11	23.6°C
E	k = 8	6.55	6.93	11.12	$2.73 \cdot 10^{-13}$	0.026	3.62	24.1°C
F	k = 9	7.19	7.80	10.06	$3.17 \cdot 10^{-13}$	0.026	3.67	24.2°C

Figure S25: LOESS models of mean WNV incidence as a function of average summer temperature. Points are means for bins of 42 counties (+/- SE). Lines are locally estimated scatterplot smoothing (LOESS) regression models with different smoothing (span) parameters: 0.1 (red), 0.25 (orange), 0.5 (green), 0.6 (cyan), 0.75 (light blue), 1 (dark blue), and 2 (violet). Models were fit to raw county-level data (n = 3,109, binned for visual clarity). The best model (span = 0.6, which appropriately balances overfitting and underfitting the data) estimates that incidence peaks at 23.9°C.

Figure S26: Raw county-level data for mean WNV incidence (2000-2016) as a function of average summer temperature (n = 3,109).

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