Genetic analysis of *Aedes aegypti* captured in two international airports serving the Greater Tokyo area during 2012—2015

Kentaro Itokawa[1], Jinping Hu[2], Nayu Sukehiro[3], Tsuda Yoshio[4], Osamu Komagata[4,5], Shinji Kasai[4], Takashi Tomita[4], Noboru Minakawa[2] and *Kyoko Sawabe[4]

1. Pathogen Genomics Center, National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Tokyo, Japan
2. Department of Vector Ecology and Environment, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Nagasaki University, Nagasaki, Japan
3 Fukuoka Quarantine station, Fukuoka, Japan
4. Department of Medical Entomology, National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Tokyo, Japan
5. Antimicrobial Resistance Research Center, National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Tokyo, Japan

*To whom correspondent should be addressed: sawabe@nih.go.jp

Abstract

During 2012—2015, live larvae and an adult of the yellow-fever mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*,

were captured in two international airports serving the Greater Tokyo area of Japan.

Because this species does not naturally distribute in this country, those mosquitoes were

considered to be introduced from some foreign countries *via* air-transportation. To infer the

places of origin of those mosquitoes, we genotyped 12 microsatellite loci for which the most

comprehensive population genetic reference is available. Although clustering by Bayesian

and multivariate methods both suggested all those airport mosquitoes belong to Asia/Pacific

population, they did not form a single population cluster. There was variation in

mitochondrial *Cox1* haplotypes between airport mosquitoes collected in different incidents,

indicating there were multiple maternal origins for those mosquitoes. Whereas we conclude

there is little evidence to support overwintering of *Ae. aegypti* in the airports in this study,

special attention is still desired to prevent the invasion of this prominent arbovirus vector.

Keywords: Aedes aegypti, microsatellite, airport, exotic, mosquito

Background

Aedes aegypti, dengue-yellow fever mosquito, distributes in the most part of the tropical and subtropical regions. This species shows strong biting preference to humans and adaptation to urbanized environments, which make them an extremely effective vector of numerous arthropod-borne viral diseases including dengue, yellow fever and Zika. The global distribution of this species is a result of intercontinental movement of the mosquitoes along with trades and traffic by human. Recent population genetic studies indicate existence of two major genetic clusters of *Ae. aegypti* world-wide (1,2). The African cluster which exclusively distribute in Africa is considered representing the ancestral population of this species. On the other hand, *Ae. aegypti* population distributing in all regions outside of Africa as well as some parts of Africa is a monophyletic population lineage. The "out-of-Africa" is more domesticated and well adapted to human inhabitation than "Africa" population. This cluster is believe to be introduced from Africa to the other part of the world probably around the 16th century along with transatlantic traffic (3).

Modern global transportation may accelerate spread of exotic insect pests across continents. For disease transmitting mosquitoes, aircrafts is one of the most important pathway for its daily volume and speed (4,5). In Japan, the number of international scheduled flights increases constantly in these years (6) partly due to the expansion of low-cost carriers. Thus, reinforcement of surveillance system for the exotic mosquitoes in airports is highly demanded. In 2012, *Ae. aegypti* larvae were discovered in a single oviposition trap placed in a passenger terminal of Narita International Airport (NRT), Chiba, Japan, which was the first detection of this mosquito species in a building of international airport, this country (7). Insecticide was sprayed around the area soon after the discovery, and the following intensive survey did not detect *Ae. aegypti* further in that season (7). After

the incident in 2012, however, the mosquitoes were sporadically trapped again by ovitraps

in NRT in August and September 2013, September 2014 and June, September and

November 2015 (Table 1). Also, in September 2013, single *Ae. aegypti* adult was captured

in Tokyo International Airport (aka Haneda Airport: HND) which locates approximately 60 km

south-west away from NRT (Fig. 1). Although the continuous discoveries of *Ae. aegypti* in

NRT may indicate repetitive introductions from some foreign regions, the possibility for

existence of a source *Ae. aegypti* population which is stable and overwintering somewhere

in the airport buildings cannot be excluded.

Preceding studies using genotype on 12 microsatellite loci have revealed the hierarchical

structure of *A. aegypti* population (2,8). According to the result of those studies, the

world-wide *Ae. aegypti* population is divided into Africa and out-of-Africa clusters, as

mentioned above. The out-of-Africa cluster is further divided into the New-world and the

Asia/Pacific cluster (8). We considered such a hierarchical structure and existing

comprehensive microsatellite genotype table of world-wide population (8) allow us to narrow

down the origin of the exotic mosquitoes discovered in airports. In this study, we analyzed

genotypes of the 12 microsatellite loci and the sequence of mitochondrial cytochrome

oxidase 1 (*Cox1*) gene haplotypes in those mosquito samples captured in airport buildings

during 2012—2015.

Material and methods

Mosquitoes

The routine surveillance for mosquitoes during 2012—2015 conducted by the airport

quarantine station stuffs discovered *Ae. aegypti* larvae and adults in two international

airports close to the Tokyo capital city (Fig. 1) (9). Among those incidents, the incident in

NRT, 2012 was detailed in Sukehiro et al. (2013). Those mosquitoes were identified as *Ae.*

aegypti morphologically. Some of the larvae were kept in laboratory and allowed to be

developed to adults before being provided to us. For some mosquitoes, we obtained only

one or few legs from the quarantine office after the rest of bodies was subjected to

flaviviruses and Chikungunya virus detection by RT-PCR.

DNA extraction

DNA was extracted individually using MagExtractor[TM] -Genome- (Toyobo) from whole body

mosquitoes and eluted in 50 μl TE buffer (pH 8.0). If only single or few legs were available,

modified alkaline lysis method (10) was used to prepare PCR template. In our modified

alkaline lysis method, legs were homogenized in 10 μl of NaOH solution (0.2 M) in each well

of 8-stripped PCR tubes by shaking with a zirconia bead (2 mm in diameter, Nikkato, Japan)

in TissuLyser II (Qiagen) for 30 s at 30 Hz. The homogenate was incubated for 10 min on 75

ºC, then neutralized by adding 10 μl of neutralization buffer (360 mM tris-HCl, 10 mM EDTA,

pH 8.0) and 90 μl of Milli-Q water.

Genotyping microsatellite loci

Twelve microsatellite loci developed in Brown et al. (2) and Slotman et al. (11) were

amplified by PCR with labeled M13 primers as described in Brown et al. (2). Primers and

fluorescent dye combinations are described in Table S1. A PCR mixture contained 1 ul of

template DNA, 1× Type-it Multiplex PCR Master Mix (Qiagen), 0.2 μM of each locus specific

reverse primers, 0.02 μM of each locus specific forward primers and 0.2 μM of fluorescent

labeled M13 primers, and the PCR condition was 95 °C for 2 min, 40 cycles of 98 °C for 5 s,

55 °C for 90 s and 72 °C for 20 s, then final extension on 72 °C for 1 min. The resulted PCR

fragments were electrophoresed with GeneScan 500 LIZ size standard (Applied Biosystems,

ABI) in ABI3130 (ABI) for fragment analysis. Allele sizes were scored in Peak Scanner

Software v1.0 (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Five DNA samples previously analyzed by Brown

et al. (2) was also genotyped in same manner to calibrate the consistency of allele-call

between the different laboratories. .

Population clustering and assignment

The genotype data of airport populations were merged with the reference individual

genotype table (VBP0000138 in Population Biology Project of VectorBase.org) (excluding

the *Ae. mascarensis* and *Ae. queenslandensis* data) and formatted for analysis by

STRUCTURE 2.3.4 (12,13). Each analysis was conducted with 200,000 burn-in followed by

500,000 sampling, without using prior information of collection locations and with allele

frequency correlated model for ten independent runs as replication. The best K value was

determined according to the Evanno's criteria (14). The replications at the best K were

averaged by CLUMPP (15), and then visualized by DISTRUCT (16) using CLUMPAK server

(17).

Discrimination analysis of principle component (DAPC) was conducted for microsatellite

genotype data using adegenet v2.0.1 package (18) in R v3.3.2. Countries of origins (except

Hawaii/USA, which were treated as separated regions) were used for predefinition of

populations for reference genotype panels. For airport samples collected in Japan, samples

collected in each different incidence are treated as distinct predefined populations.

Population assignment analyses were conducted in GeneClass2 (19). First, the reference

genotypes were divided into African and out-of-Africa groups. As setting cutoff threshold

probability to 0.8, GeneClass2 assigned 95.4% (42 / 918) African genotypes and 98.0%

(2661 / 2714) out-of-Africa genotypes back to each original group. Misassignment

(assigning to wrong cluster with probability >0.8) rate, on the other hand, was 2.9 and 1% for

African and out-of-Africa genotypes, respectively. Then, the out-of-Africa reference

genotypes were divided into New-world and Asia/Pacific groups. In self-assignment test

among these groups, GeneClass2 assigned 88.2% (1740 / 1972) New-world genotypes and

88.1% (654 / 742) Asia/Pacific genotypes were properly assigned back to each original

group. Misassignments, on the other hand, occurred in 8.3 and 7.3 % for New-world and

Asia/Pacific genotypes, respectively.

Sequencing cytochrome oxidase I gene (*Cox1*) of mitochondrial DNA

The fragments of the *Cox1* genes were amplified individually using primers COI-FOR

5□-GTAATTGTAACAGCTCATGCA-3'/COI-REV 5□-AATGATCATAGAAGGGCTGGAC-3'

(20). The PCR mixture 10 µl reaction mixes containing 1 µl of 10× reaction buffer (Qiagen),

0.8 µl dNTP, 20 pmol of each primer and 1 U of Taq polymerase (Qiagen, USA) and 1 µl of

the DNA template. PCR was performed under the following conditions: 94°C for 3 min and

35 cycles of 94°C for 15 s, 55°C for 30 s, 72°C for 30 s; and 72°C for 10 min. The amplified

PCR product were cleaned using ExoSAP-IT (USB Corporation, Cleveland, OH, USA) and

sequenced in 3730 DNA Analyzer (Applied Biosystems) using BigDye Terminator v 1.1

Cycle Sequencing Kit (Applied Biosystems). The *Cox1* haplotype of NRT13_Sep was

queried in BLASTN (21) (2019/05/09) search at NCBI Nucleotide collection (nt/rt) database

restricted in *Ae. aegypti*, and hits with more than 95% query coverage were aligned using

MUSCLE (22). Sequences retrieved were AF380835, AF390098 and AY056597 (23);

AF425846 (24); AY432106 and AY432648 (25); EU352212; HQ688292-688298 (26),

JQ926676-926684, JQ926686-926690, JQ926692-926696, JQ926698-926700 and

JQ926702, JQ926704 (27); KF909122 (28), KM203140-203248 (29); KT313642,

KT313645, KT313648, KT313650-313653 (30); KT339661 and KT339679-339683 (31),

KU186990; KX171382-171394. Haplotype network was drawn for the alignment using the

pegas package (v0.11) in R (32).

Result

Population genetic analysis

The 12 microsatellite loci were genotyped for 40 *Ae. aegypti* samples collected in two

international airports serving the Greater Tokyo area during 2012—2015. As already

confirmed in preceding study (2,8), STRUCTURE separated the individual genotypes in

whole data (samples in this study + references) into Africa and out-of-Africa genetic clusters

at the best K-value=2 with some level of admixture in Kenyan and Argentina (Fig. 2A). All

samples collected in the airports belonged to the out-of-Africa cluster. The genotypes from

out-of-Africa countries plus the airport samples were further separated into two New-world

clusters and one Asia/Pacific cluster at the best K-value=3 (Fig. 2B) as expected from the

result of preceding study (8). Genotypes of the airport samples showed preferences to the

Asia/Pacific cluster. The Asia/Pacific group plus the airport samples were separated at the

best K-value=5 (Fig. 2C). The result showed weak population structure according to

geographic locations/countries. The airport population in Japan showed affinities to several

different clusters with some congruency within samples collected in the same incident.

DAPC analysis of same genotype data also supported the affiliation of our airport samples

to out-of-Africa group (Fig. 3A). Clustering genotypes excluding Africa data marginally

separated New-world and Asia/Pacific genotypes with substantial overlap. All airport

samples were contained in a range of Asia/Pacific cluster (Fig 3B) but were not completely

distinct from the New-world cluster. No more fine clustering was obtained from DAPC

analysis within Asia/Pacific group (Fig. 3C).

The result of STRUCTURE and DAPC was cross validated by assigning the airport

samples to *a priori* defined genetic group by GeneClass2. All airport samples, except one in

NRT14 assigned to the out-of-Africa group for "Africa or out-of-Africa" selection panel. When

using the "New-world or Asia/Pacific" selection panel, most individual genotypes in NRT

samples showed Asia/Pacific origin. The only one sample from HND, on the other hand, was

assigned to New-world group (Fig. S1).

Mitochondrial lineage

Mitochondria *Cox1* gene was sequenced for the 40 individuals captured in airports.

Individuals captured in the same incident had an identical haplotype suggesting those

mosquitoes were siblings from a single female mosquito. Fig 4 shows haplotype network

graph for the representing *Cox1* haplotypes of the airport mosquitoes plus other entries

registered in NCBI Nucleotide collection database. NRT13_Sep, NRT15_Jun and

NRT15_Nov mosquitoes shared the same haplotype which was also identical to haplotypes

already reported from Asia/Pacific region. Although other airport samples had each unique

haplotype among all airport samples, the haplotypes in HND13 and NRT14 were identical to

some reported haplotypes isolated from Asia/Pacific region and both New-world and

Asia/Pacific region, respectively.

Discussion

Origin of *Ae. aegypti* captured in Narita and Haneda international airports

We analyzed *Ae. aegypti* sampled in two international airports serving the Greater Tokyo

area of Japan. Both Bayesian (STRUCTURE) and multivariate (DAPC) clustering methods

supported all those samples belong to Asian/Pacific genetic group. Although there are some

disagreements, genetic assignment test by GeneClass2 assigned most samples to the

Asia/Pacific group by hierarchical clustering approach. During 2012 to 2015, more than half

of total passenger planes arriving at Narita Airport originated from Asia/Pacific region every

year, while direct flights originating from Africa or South America (most likely source in the

New world) accounted for less than 0.3% of the total flights (33). Considering relatively high

misassignment rate in GeneClass2 test and the high traffic volume from Asia/Pacific regions

to Japan, we, at the moment, assume the origins of all airport samples are somewhere in

Asia/Pacific region. To obtain more confidence and resolution to assign individuals into

narrower local populations (i.e. country level), further expansion of reference panel to

include more world-wide populations and utilization of richer genetic information such as

genome-wide single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) (34–36) would be required.

Are *Ae. aegypti* reproduce stably in airport?

The mosquitoes collected in same incident had all identical mitochondrial haplotypes with

each other. This suggests individuals collected in same incident represented siblings from

single female. On the other hand, mosquitoes collected in different incidents could had

different mitochondrial haplotypes indicating that there were multiple different maternal

lineages for entire *Ae. aegypti* collected in airports during 2012—2015. Furthermore,

STRUCTURE analysis did not assign all airport individuals into single cluster within

Asia/Pacific group. Considering the facts that the discovery were occasional and intensive

surveys following each discovery did not find additional *Ae. aegypti*, there is so far little

evidence to support establishment of stable *Ae. aegypti* population in airport.

While most region in Japan are not suitable for *Ae. aegypti* inhabitation, this species are

once established overwintering population in temperate zone in Japan within limited period

after the World War II (1944—1952) (37). Overwintering of *Ae. aegypti* was also suspected

in Washington, DC during 2011—2014, where the mosquito may be utilizing the

subterranean habitat (38). In 2014, local infection of dengue occurred in Tokyo (39) for the

first time in those 70-years, though the vector mosquito was *Ae. albopictus*. Nevertheless,

continuous introduction of both vectors and pathogens pose an undesirable risk that would

change epidemiological situation in this country. Thus, further intensive surveillance and

preventive measure for exotic mosquito in airport are desired.

Conclusion

The *Aedes aegypti* discovered in the two international airports in Japan are suspected to be

come from some countries in Asia/Pacific region. There is little evidence to support

overwintering of *Ae. aegypti* in those airports.

List of abbreviations

CoxI: cytochrome oxidase 1

DAPC: Discrimination analysis of principle component

HND: Tokyo International Airport (aka Haneda Airport)

NRT: Narita International Airport

<u>Declarations</u>

Ethics approval and consent to participate: Not applicable.

Consent for publication: Not applicable.

Availability of data and materials: Microsatellite genotypes are provided as supporting

material Table_S2. Sequences of each *CoxI* haplotype were deposited to the Data Bank

of Japan (DDBJ) under accession number described in Table 1.

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Authors' contributions: KI, SK and KS designed this study and revised the manuscript. TY

and NS participated in sample collection. KI, JH and OK performed experiments. KI, TT

260 and NM executed data analysis. KI and JH drafted the manuscript. All authors read and

261 approved the final manuscript.

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

264 Supportive information

265 Table_s1_primer_dye.xlsx: Table for sequences of primers, dyes and multiplex group used

266 to amplify microsatellites in this study.

267 Table_s2_Genotypes.tsv: Table for microsatellite genotypes of each *Ae .aegypti* individuals.

268 FigS1.pdf: Result of GeneClass2 population assignment.

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Table 1 Description for incidents in which *Ae. aegypti* were captured in the two international airports, Japan, during 2012—2015

ID	Location	Period	Description*	N	*Cox1* Access. No.
NRT12	NRT	2012 Aug	Pupae and larvae were discovered in single ovitrap. Intensive survey after the discovery in area 400 m around did not detect additional mosquitoes (Sukehiro et al., 2013).	4	LC482631
HND13	HND	2013 Sep	Single adult male was captured in CDC light trap placed in cargo terminal. Intensive survey after the discovery in area 400 m around did not detect additional mosquitoes	1	LC482636
NRT13_Aug	NRT	2013 Aug	Pupae and larvae were discovered in single ovitrap set in airplane arrival terminal which located 1.5 km depart from NRT13_Sep_Aug discovered spot. Intensive survey after the discovery in 400 m area around the spot did not detect additional mosquitoes .	8	LC482632
NRT13_Sep	NRT	2013 Sep	Pupae and larvae were discovered in single ovitrap set in cargo terminal which located 1.5 km depart from NRT13_Sep_Aug discovered spot. Intensive survey after the discovery in 400 m area around the spot did not detect additional mosquitoes .	10	LC482633
NRT14	NRT	2014 Sep	Larvae were discovered in single ovitrap. Intensive survey after the discovery in 400 m area around the spot did not detect additional mosquitoes .	7	LC482630
NRT15_Jun	NRT	2014 Jun	Larvae were discovered in single ovitrap. Intensive survey after the discovery in 400 m area around the spot did not detect additional mosquitoes.	4	LC482634
NRT15_Sep	NRT	2014 Sep	Larvae were discovered in single ovitrap. Intensive survey after the discovery in 400 m area around the spot did not detect additional mosquitoes.	2	LC482629
NRT15_Nov	NRT	2014 Nov	Larvae were discovered in single ovitrap. Intensive survey after the discovery in 400 m area around the spot did not detect additional mosquitoes.	4	LC482635

*From Vector Surveillance Reports by Quarantine Information Office, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare Japan:

https://www.forth.go.jp/ihr/fragment2/index.html)

Figure lengends

Fig. 1 Locations of Narita-airport (NRT) and Haneda airport (HND) on map including

Tokyo and peripheral cities.

The map was reproduced from Geospatial Information Authority of Japan website

(https://www.gsi.go.jp).

Fig. 2 Bayesian clustering by STRUCTURE

Result of multiple STRUCTURE runs were averaged by CLUMPP. Only results for the

best K-values in Evanno's method are shown. Magnified views for the airport samples

are shown at the right end of each figure. (A) Clusters of all *Ae. aegypti* genotypes +

airport samples in Japan at the best k-value 2. (B) Clusters of out-of-African genotypes +

airport samples in Japan at the best k-value 3. There were two distinct clustering results.

(C) Clusters of Asia/Pacific genotypes + airport samples in Japan at the best k-value 5.

Fig. 3 DAPC analysis by Adegenet

The results of Discriminative Analysis of Principle Components (DAPC) are shown. X-

and Y- axes indicate 1st and 2nd principal component of DAPC, respectively. Right and left

insects show scree plots of PCA and DA eigenvalues, respectively. Labels and individual

points for airport samples in Japan are drown in black. First, we conducted clustering

using whole genotype data along with airport samples in Japan (A). Next, out-of-African

genotypes along with airport samples in Japan were clustered. (B). Finally, Asia/Pacific

genotypes along with airport samples in Japan were clustered (C).

Fig. 4 Haplotype network graph for *Cox1* gene

Each node indicates distinct *Cox1* haplotype. Number of ticks on each edge show

number of mutations. AF: Africa, NW: New-world, AP: Asia/Pacific, NA: Information

unavailable.

A) All countries (K = 2)

B) Non-Afica (K = 3)

Mojor cluster

Minor cluster

C) Asia (K = 5)

1. Argentina
2. Australia
3. Brazil
4. Cameroon
5. Colombia
6. Costa Rica
7. Dominica
8. French-Polynesia
9. Gabon
10. Grenada
11. Guinea-Bissau
12. HND13
13. Indonesia
14. Kenya
15. Madeira
16. Mauritius
17. Mexico
18. NRT12
19. NRT13_Aug
20. NRT13_Sep
21. NRT14
22. NRT15_Jun
23. NRT15_Nov
24. NRT15_Sep
25. Hawaii
26. Pakistan
27. Puerto Rico
28. Saudi Arabia
29. Senegal
30. South Africa
31. SriLanka
32. Thailand
33. Philippines
34. Trinidad
35. Uganda
36. USA
37. Venezuela
38. HoChiMin
39. Hanoi

● AF	● 1.NRT12	● 4.HND13	● 7.NRT15_Sep
● NW	● 2.NRT13_Aug	● 5.NRT14	● 8.NRT15_Nov
● AP	● 3.NRT13_Sep	● 6.NRT15_Jun	○ NA