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P14. NEW NON-TOXIC WEAPON AGAINST MOSQUITOES

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Aquatain AMF is a unique silicone-based liquid for mosquito control. It spreads across the surface of standing water, forming a very thin film which lasts for at least 4 weeks. As the silicone polymer has a low surface tension, mosquito larvae and pupae cannot attach to the surface to breathe - causing them to drown.

Trials have been conducted in sixteen countries, covering a wide range of mosquito-breeding situations and climatic conditions. All of the trials have been undertaken by independent authorities, and many have been peer-reviewed.

The trials have been conducted on anopheles, aedes and culex mosquitoes, and the product has been found to have a very high degree of efficacy in all cases. Pupae of all species die within about two hours - regardless of the species. The larvae also die, but the young larvae of some species may survive for a few days. Silicones have been extensively studied for the past 50 years, and indeed the European Centre For Ecotoxicity And Toxicology of Chemicals (ECETOC) concluded in 2011 that they do not present a risk to the environment or to human health.

Several reports have examined the effect of Aquatain AMF on non-target species, and no significant impacts have been observed.

Aquatain Drops are a recent variation on the product: they are soluble capsules which contain Aquatain AMF. When dropped into a water container, the capsules dissolve and release the Aquatain AMF to spread across the surface. They are designed for small water containers around the home. Aquatain AMF has been exempted from registration in the European Union because of its purely physical action - a major achievement for a mainstream mosquito control product - and it has also been approved for sale in Turkey.

Keywords: surface tension, liquid, spreading film