

Reuters Widgets
Get the latest news, videos, pictures and more on your site!
[Download](#)

Everyday Smiles
See your smile in Times Square
[Upload your photo](#) [Replay](#)

You are here: [Home](#) > [News](#) > [Science](#) > Article

- HOME
- BUSINESS & FINANCE
- NEWS
- U.S.
- Politics
- International
- Technology
- Entertainment
- Sports
- Lifestyle
- Oddly Enough
- Environment
- Health
- Science
- Special Coverage
- Video
- Pictures
- You Witness
- Blogs
- Reader Feedback

Malaria parasites fine-tune offspring's gender: study

Wed May 28, 2008 3:22pm EDT

[Email](#) | [Print](#) | [Share](#) | [Reprints](#) | [Single Page](#) | [Recommend \(0\)](#) | [\[-\] Text \[+\]](#)



[1 of 2](#) [Full Size](#)

By Michael Kahn

LONDON (Reuters) - Malaria parasites fine-tune the number of male and female offspring they produce to maximize the odds of infecting another host, a finding that could help fight the deadly disease, British researchers said on Wednesday.

The parasites use a neat evolutionary trick that allows them to adjust reproduction of sons and daughters to best transmit genes to the next generation, the researchers reported in the journal Nature.

"The basic point is we need to know our enemy somewhat better," said Sarah Reece, an evolutionary biologist at the University of Edinburgh, who led the study. "The mating biology of the parasite has been pretty neglected."

Malaria, caused by a parasite transmitted by mosquitoes, infects between 300 million and 500 million people each year, mainly in Africa. The disease kills about 1 million people each year, including a child every 30 seconds.

RELATED NEWS

[Researchers find new way to attack malaria](#)
03 Jun 2008

powered by [Sphere](#)

Featured Broker sponsored link



Learn to Trade with a FREE Guide.

It has also become resistant to some drugs and work on a vaccine has been slow. One effective treatment is Novartis AG's Coartem, currently the gold standard in malaria care.

The parasite that causes malaria reproduces asexually within a host but only males and females can survive inside a mosquito. So the parasite must ensure it produces the right number of each sex to boost the chances of passing on its genes through mosquitoes, Reece said.

"If they can't infect mosquitoes, they can't spread the disease," Reece said in a telephone interview.

The researchers looked at the rodent-infecting malaria parasite called Plasmodium chaubi, which Reece said was likely to act in the same way as human parasites. **Continued...**

[View article on single page](#)

[Previous Page](#) | [1](#) | [2](#) | [Next Page](#)

SHARE: [Del.icio.us](#) [Digg](#) [Mixx](#) [My Web](#) [Facebook](#) [Newsvine](#)

RELATED BLOG POSTS

- [The Stone Angel: 90 Heritage Minutes](#)
DarrenBarefoot.com
- [Trans Parent, Gay Son: Pride Across the Generations](#)
Mombian on Offsprung.com
- [Telemedicine Rehab Helps COPD Patients](#)
The Medical Migrant
- [2008 Mongol Rally: The Countdown Begins](#)
Viator Travel Blog
- [Clinton's Three O'Clock Blues](#)
Anderson@Large

DJIA : 12280.32 ▲ | Nasdaq : 2459.46 ▼

EDITOR'S CHOICE



A selection of our best images from the past 24 hours. [View Slideshow](#)

Everyday Smiles
See your smile in Times Square
[Upload your photo](#) [Replay](#)

MOST POPULAR ON REUTERS

[Articles](#) | [Video](#) | [Searched](#) | [Recommended](#)

1. [Michelle Obama, Cindy McCain are study in contrast](#) | [Video](#)
2. [Antarctica base gets 16,500 condoms before darkness](#)
3. [Iran warns of "painful" response if Israel attacks](#)
4. [Rep. Kucinich calls for Bush impeachment](#)
5. [Cigarettes whisked out of sight](#)
6. [Apple takes wraps off "zippy" iPhone](#) | [Video](#)
7. [Relief as China "quake lake" drains at speed](#) | [Video](#)
8. [TomTom says navigation app already runs on iPhone](#)
9. [Apple takes wraps off "zippy" iPhone, cuts price](#)
10. [Dozens of dolphins die on Madagascar beach](#)

[Most Popular Articles RSS Feed](#)

New York Photo Awards Multimedia Winner

Bearing Witness
Reuters award-winning multimedia piece, reflecting five years of reporting the war in Iraq.



[Watch now](#)

Do More With Reuters

- [RSS](#)
- [Widgets](#)
- [Mobile](#)
- [Podcasts](#)
- [Newsletters](#)
- [You Witness News](#)

Partner Services

- [CareerBuilder](#)
- [Affiliate Network](#)

Professional Products

- [Support \(Customer Zone\)](#)
- [Reuters Media](#)
- [Financial Products](#)
- [Find a financial adviser](#)

About Thomson Reuters

powered by  BlogBurst

Views in these blog posts are those of the author and not of Reuters.

RELATED WEB NEWS

[A \\$10 Mosquito Net Is Making Charity Cool - NYTimes.com](#)

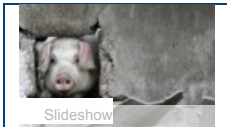
The New York Times

[UN chief to announce plan to eliminate deaths from malaria](#)

U.S. News

powered by  Sphere

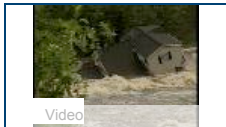
ALSO ON REUTERS



[Fuzz, Fur, Feathers: Animals from around the world](#)



[Don't pump up the volume, Australian research shows](#)



[Severe weather pounds midwestern United States](#)

Ads by Google [What's This?](#)

[Buy a Property in Dubai](#)

Luxury Beachfront Apts from £89k 15% pa (net) and 50% Capital Growth

www.TheFirstGroup.com

[Equity Release Calculator](#)

Find out how much equity you could release from your home.

AgePartnership.co.uk

[How i earn £14,577 a week](#)

working from home, this online business guarantees £14k a week

www.earncashathome.co.uk

Reuters.com: [Help and Contact Us](#) | [Advertise With Us](#) | [Mobile](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [RSS](#)  | [Interactive TV](#) | [Labs](#) | [Reuters in Second Life](#) | [Archive](#) | [Site Index](#) | [Video Index](#)

Thomson Reuters Corporate: [Copyright](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Professional Products](#) | [Professional Products Support](#) | [About Thomson Reuters](#) | [Careers](#)

International Editions: [Africa](#) | [Arabic](#) | [Argentina](#) | [Brazil](#) | [Canada](#) | [China](#) | [France](#) | [Germany](#) | [India](#) | [Italy](#) | [Japan](#) | [Latin America](#) | [Mexico](#) | [Russia](#) | [Spain](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [United States](#)

Thomson Reuters is the world's largest international multimedia news agency, providing investing news, world news, business news, technology news, headline news, small business news, news alerts, personal finance, stock market, and mutual funds information available on Reuters.com, video, mobile, and interactive television platforms. Thomson Reuters journalists are subject to an Editorial Handbook which requires fair presentation and disclosure of relevant interests.

NYSE and AMEX quotes delayed by at least 20 minutes. Nasdaq delayed by at least 15 minutes. For a complete list of exchanges and delays, please [click here](#).