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Transforming mosquitoes

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Catteruccia *et al.* announce in the June 22 [Nature](#) that they have succeeded in introducing DNA into the germline of *Anopheles stephensi*, the mosquito that is one of the major carriers of malaria in urban areas of the Indian subcontinent (*Nature* 2000, **405**:959-962). They injected two plasmids (one with a gene for green fluorescent protein (GFP) and the other with a transposase gene) into mosquito eggs. The eggs were treated with an inhibitor of melanization to slow hardening. Five of 69 surviving adults (7%) incorporated the GFP-encoding DNA into their genomes and fluoresced. Transformation should allow the introduction of genes that [prevent reproduction](#) of the malaria parasite within its obligatory insect vector.

References

1. Nature magazine, [<http://www.nature.com/nature/>]
2. Building the better bug.