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An educational intervention to reduce mosquito breeding habitats: The PuMo pilot project

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The number of locally transmitted infections caused by mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile fever and dengue fever increase in Germany and Europe. Children are one of the vulnerable groups at risk from these diseases. The PuMo pilot project tests whether an educational campaign for children in schools reduces the number of mosquito breeding sites on school grounds. For this purpose, a face-to-face session with scientists is being planned, and a book containing materials is being developed, which pupils and their teachers can use independently to explore the topic in greater depth.

The educational campaign covers knowledge about insects, mosquitoes and their breeding habitats, as well as the One Health concept. The latter is used to illustrate to the children the dichotomy between the removal of small water bodies for the purpose of vector control and the provision of small water bodies as drinking water for other animals or for rainwater collection. Emphasis is placed on explaining to the children how mosquito breeding sites can be reduced and controlled whilst simultaneously providing drinking stations and water sources to animals such as other insects and birds.

The awareness campaign is accompanied by entomological surveys and the completion of socio-ecological questionnaires by the children to document the effectiveness of the intervention and the potential of the children to act as knowledge mediators within the school community and into their family environments.

Keywords

educational intervention, One Health concept, breeding habitat reduction, mosquito, local community

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Professional Status of the Speaker

Postdoc

Junior Scientist Status

No, I am not a Junior Scientist.

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