

Swatting helps mosquito escape

If you try to swat a mosquito, you are actually helping it to escape. This finding comes from PhD research by Antoine Cribellier of Experimental Zoology. He studied the role of air flows in the flight behaviour of malaria mosquitoes. For his research, Cribellier developed a fly swatter that hits out at flying mosquitoes. Images of the escaping insects recorded by high-speed cameras show that they make use of the airflow that is set in motion. Not only does it push the mosquitoes away, it also triggers an active flight response.

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