

# Mosquito wins Cover Prize

***Chasing Culex*, the thesis that Rody Blom received his PhD in August, has won the 2024 Resource Cover Prize. *Culex* refers to *Culex pipiens*, the common-or-garden mozzie. Blom collected thousands of them for his research, from all corners of the Netherlands. The nine strong Cover Prize jury chose the mosquito cover as its favourite.**

'A symmetrical cover that has something of an old-school tattoo or tarot card about it,' says Ilja Bouwknegt, jury member and student editor. 'Nice to look at *and* effective: you know straight off that it's about mosquitoes and temperature in some way.' She's spot on: the design was made by the tattoo artist Renee Appelmans from Arnhem. It was obvious to Blom that there had to be a mosquito on the cover and that Appelmans had to design it. 'I really

love her work and that old-school style.' Blom's study is about how climate change is affecting the risk of disease from mosquito-borne viruses. 'The whole thing feels more like an artwork than a traditional thesis cover,' reckons Alfred Heikamp, jury member and designer of *Resource*. 'The cover is exciting, elegant and visually impressive. A super visualization of the theme.'

## Art deco

For the jury member Anneke Groen (curator of Special Collections), Blom's cover has an art-deco feel to it. 'It could almost go straight into Special Collections.' But that's not where it's going to go: it's destined for Omnia's PhD graduation room. Its manager Chris van Kreijl wants to replace the portraits of professors currently on the walls there with posters of the last four Cover Prize winners.

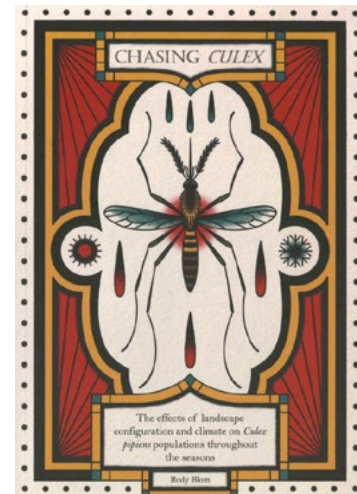


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Ten theses are nominated for the Cover Prize by Resource's science editors. In second place behind Blom's cover came one by the Zambian Taonga Chirwa-Moonga (*Exploring Zambian Diets*) and *Timber Tales* by the Brazilian Bárbara Rocha Venancio Meyer-Sand came third. RK