

Response to Comments on “Socio-geographical factors in vulnerability to dengue in Thai villages: a spatial regression analysis” by Tipayamongkholgul and Lisakulruk

Dear Editor,

We thank Arya and Agarwal for their constructive comments regarding our article “Socio-geographical factors in vulnerability to dengue in Thai villages: a spatial regression analysis” published in the previous issue of *Geospatial Health*.

The potential influence of local vectors and types of dress during day time with respect to the risk for dengue infection was not evaluated, since the main aim of our ecological study was to identify areas at risk in general. We agree that the points made by Arya and Agarwal are useful and should be considered in further studies to evaluate the determinants that characterizes area at risk for dengue infection.

The primary vector of dengue in Thailand is *Aedes aegypti*. This mosquito species prefers living in shelters and lays its eggs in man-made containers within, or around, the premises (Polawat and Harrington, 2005). It generally seeks blood meals inside premises during the day (between 08:00 and 17:00 hours), but bites are more frequent in the morning (Thavara et al., 2011). Not surprisingly, the majority of dengue cases in Thailand are school-age children,

who wear shorts or skirts and short shirts during the whole day (Chareonsook et al., 1998; Sukhontha et al., 2011).

References

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