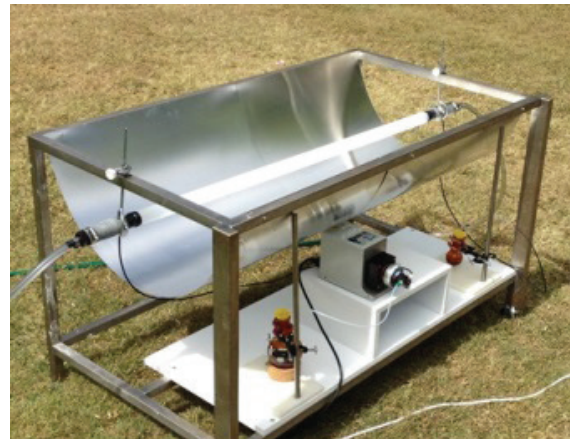
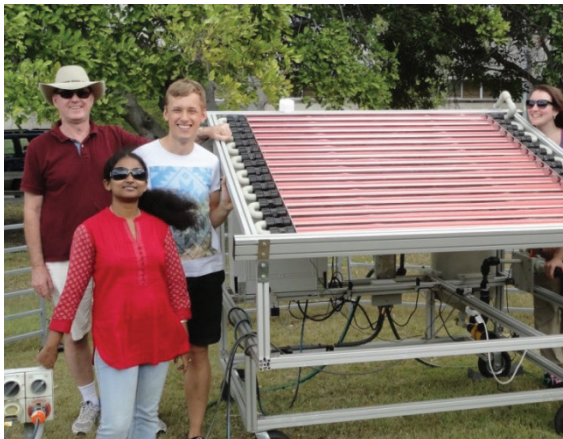




Research

TropEco Research Award 2014 – The Eradicate Insect-borne Diseases with Sunlight Initiative at JCU

By Michael Oelgemöller, Matthew Bolte, Tyler Goodine, Saira Mumtaz, Padmakana Malakar, Amy Dunkerton and Richard Hunter



Insect bites from mosquitos or sand-flies are widespread in tropical North-Queensland and have a significant impact on Life, Health and Economies. They affect our 'outdoor lifestyle' and can cause allergic reactions or diseases such as dengue, Ross-river fever or even malaria.

These symptoms inflict significant social and economic costs on our community. Likewise, city councils are forced to spend substantial financial and staff resources on preventive programs.

The Eradicate Insect-borne Diseases with Sunlight Initiative (EIDSI) at JCU is utilizing Queensland's two major natural resources, sunlight and biomass. Its research activities help to safeguard public health in the region and covers prophylaxis, treatment as well as cure.

The team is led by Associate-Professor Michael Oelgemöller with the help of Matthew Bolte and supported by various undergraduate and postgraduate students. The group has raised significant public interest in its solar chemistry work and has, for example, manufactured fragrances and important pharmaceutical building blocks on kilogram-scales with sunlight.

For more information about this initiative go to: <https://research.jcu.edu.au/portfolio/michael.oelgemoeller/> or contact michael.oelgemoeller@jcu.edu.au