

# Can these clothes repel mosquitoes?

A FABRIC scented with lavender may hold the answer to one of the curses of holidays in the sun – mosquitoes.

A British manufacturer claims it keeps mosquitoes and other biting insects up to 20 inches away.

And all you have to do is crumple the fabric. This releases a vapour which repels insects by reacting with their antennae.

The product, called Armywear, has been produced by textiles manufacturer George Costa, who wanted to help his daughter cope with mosquitoes on Cyprus.

She was allergic to the standard insect repellent creams and ended up being bitten all over. But since using the fabric she has beaten the bugs.

Malaria kills three million people a year, and mosquitoes also spread killer diseases such as yellow fever. The product was tested at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical

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medicine. Dr Nigel Hill stressed that his team could not endorse any products but said: "The product was tested by us against *Anopheles gambiae*, the major African malaria vector mosquito.

"The fabric totally prevented any bites through the material, and it also significantly reduced the numbers biting bare skin close to the fabric.

"The major benefit of the product is that the repellent has been applied in such a way as to bind it to the fabric in a manner that ensures gradual release over a very long period simply by movement caused by wearing it."

But he pointed out that it should be used "in conjunction with other forms of protection".

The magic ingredient is an extract of *Eucalyptus citriodora* from a plant found in China. Mr Costa's company,

Proactiv Textiles, of Hatfield, Hertfordshire, has found a way to engineer it into the fabric and continue working despite multiple washings.

The product is being sold in some branches of Boots and comes in three sizes, selling for between £7.99 and £19.99. Mr Costa is also making teddy bears out of the fabric which a child could hug in bed, keeping bugs away.



PROTECTED: Children with scented scarves and cuddly toys