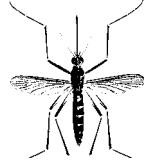


MOSQUITO NOTES



A FOUL WATER MOSQUITO

CULEX STIGMATOSOMA

GENERAL INFORMATION

This mosquito is referred to as a “foul water” mosquito due to its association with polluted water.

C. stigmatosoma is a dark bodied, medium-sized mosquito with a prominent white band on its’ proboscis (beak) and white bands on the tarsi (feet). It is further characterized by black scales which form dots “....” along the underside of the blunt-tipped abdomen.

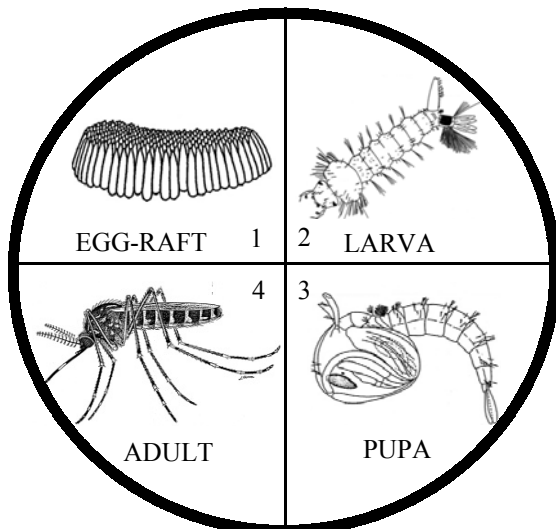
This mosquito is found throughout the Western United States from Washington south to Mexico, Central America and Northern South America.

LIFE CYCLE

Mosquitoes have four distinct life stages as seen in the illustration, with the first three stages of *Culex* (egg-larva-pupa) being spent in the water. An adult female lays about 150-200 eggs in clusters called rafts, which float on the surface of the water until they hatch in about two days. Females usually prefer to lay eggs in standing, polluted water, such as sewage, street drainage, industrial wastes and backyard sources that include swimming pools, ornamental ponds, cooler drain-water and fouled water in containers. A wide variety of other water sources may also be infested with the aquatic stages of this common mosquito.

The eggs hatch into larvae (wigglers), which then feed on small organic particles and microorganisms in the water. At the end of the larval stage, the mosquito molts and becomes the aquatic pupa (tumbler). The pupa is active only if disturbed, for this is the “resting” stage where the larval form is transformed into the adult. This takes about two days during which time feeding does not occur.

When the transformation is completed, the new adult splits the pupal skin and emerges. Under optimum conditions development from egg to adult takes about a week. However, all mosquito developmental times are dependent on the temperature of the water in which they mature.



HABITS (ADULT BEHAVIOR)

Female foul water mosquitoes (seem to) prefer to feed upon birds, but on occasion will feed on livestock and rarely man. Males feed on nectar and plant juices. Females may also feed on plant juices but usually must have a blood meal in order to develop their eggs. This species is capable of moving 1-2 miles seeking a host, but is most commonly found near its' aquatic habitat.

ECONOMIC AND MEDICAL IMPORTANCE

The foul water mosquito occasionally creates domestic, industrial and agricultural pest problems. Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE) has been isolated from natural populations of these mosquitoes; their reluctance to bite man reduces their efficiency as disease carriers.

CONTROL METHODS, PREVENTION AND CORRECTION

Where possible, the best approach is to prevent mosquitoes from breeding by eliminating breeding sites. Around the home, make certain that all containers that hold rain or sprinkler water are emptied weekly or are modified to not hold water or covered to exclude mosquitoes.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

Often the foul water mosquito may be controlled by stocking mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*).



FEMALE

CONTROL MEASURES

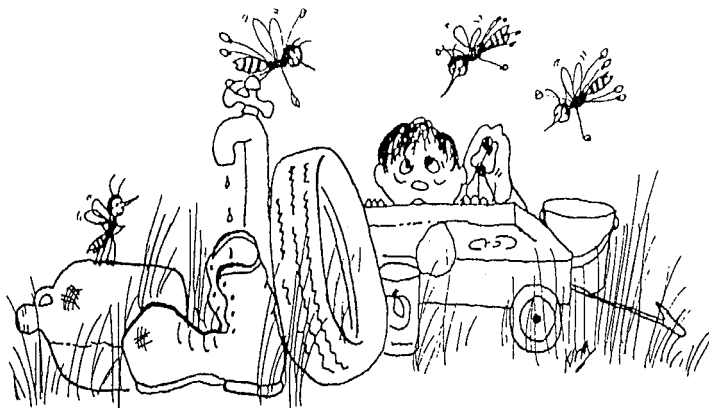
Due to the often delicate environmental inter-relationships of some ponds, chemical control should only be practiced by trained mosquito abatement or health department personnel. These officials have knowledge of the proper compounds and application techniques to assure minimal environmental side effects. Public health agencies generally are able to provide information and assistance where organized mosquito control programs are unavailable.

It is important to remember that chemical control provides only temporary relief and is used by public agencies until other measures can be implemented.

Commonly available insect repellents may be useful if it is necessary to be in an area at twilight where large numbers of this species exist.

YOU CAN PREVENT MOSQUITO BREEDING

MOSQUITO SOURCE...



WHAT TO DO?

- EMPTY OR COVER RECEPTACLES THAT WOULD OTHERWISE HOLD WATER.
- PUT MOSQUITO FISH IN PERMANENT PONDS.
- STORE OLD TIRES INSIDE OR COVER THEM.
- CLEAN CLOGGED GUTTERS.
- MANAGE IRRIGATION WATER EFFECTIVELY.
- REPORT MOSQUITO BREEDING SITES.

MARIN / SONOMA MOSQUITO
& VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT
595 HELMAN LANE
COTATI, CA. 94931
707-285-2200 or 800-231-3236
www.ms mosquito.com