

Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District

Insect Identification Request Form

Residents are invited to call or visit the District office with identification requests regarding insects or other arthropods (spiders, scorpions, mites etc.) that affect their daily lives. This service is subject to the following parameters and limitations:

- This service is provided as time permits—other staff duties may take priority.
- Identification may not be possible, especially if specimens are in poor condition.
- Please enclose all specimens in a sealed container such as a Ziploc bag or empty pill container.
- Phone calls will be returned as soon as possible, but not necessarily on the same day.
- If it is not possible to capture a specimen, identification may be possible with a photograph. Please email all photos to erice@msmosquito.com and include information regarding where the specimen was found.
- Some insects can sting or bite, so always use caution when handling them.
- Extremely small crawling specimens (such as mites) can be collected by moistening a fine-tipped paint/watercolor brush and gently touching the tip of the brush to the mite/insect. The specimen will stick to the brush and can then be gently dipped into a small, sealable container of rubbing alcohol. Gently swirling the brush tip in the alcohol will cause the specimen to fall off the brush into the collection container. Identification may take a week or more because the process of preparing specimens for microscopic examination may require a drying period of several days.
- Drop off or mail specimens to the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District (595 Helman Lane, Cotati, CA. Attn: Eric Engh),
- Please do not submit objects (such as articles of clothing, filters from air purifiers or vacuums, carpet, etc.) to be searched for insects.

Contact Information

Name: _____

Date: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Where did you find the specimen? (Please be as specific as possible) _____
