

## HABITS

- Females:
  - Vicious biters.
  - Bite during the day
  - May feed on plant juices and nectar but must have a blood meal in order to develop their eggs.
  - May remain near their larval habitat for the first few days after emergence.
  - Can be found miles away from their point of origin.
- Males:
  - Do NOT bite. Feed on nectar and plant juices.

## ECONOMIC AND MEDICAL IMPORTANCE

- Not known to be carriers of disease.
- Vicious biting can interfere with the harvesting of crops and inhibit the use of recreational areas and outdoor functions.
- Large numbers found around livestock can result in weight loss and may affect milk production.
- May be possible carriers of Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis (VEE) but this disease is not currently found in California.

## CONTROL

### Prevention and Corrective Methods:

- Preventing mosquitoes from breeding is the best method.
- Proper grading of fields, efficient water use, and adequate drainage to prevent the irrigation water from standing long enough to allow mosquitoes to develop are effective prevention methods.



### Biological Control:

- The use of mosquito fish is not practical due to intermittent irrigation and the temporary presence of water.
- Other biological control methods are being studied.

### Chemical Control:

- Chemical control presents some technical difficulties and therefore it is advisable to request control information from the nearest mosquito abatement district or public health agency.
- Chemical control only provides temporary relief and is used only until other prevention methods can be used.
- Insect repellents may be useful if necessary to be in an area where these are present

# *AEDES NIGROMACULI*

## *Pasture Mosquito*



Fresno Mosquito and Vector Control District  
2338 E. McKinley Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93707  
(559) 268-6565

Fresno Westside Mosquito Abatement District  
2555 N. Street P.O. Box 125  
Firebaugh, CA 93622  
(559) 659-2437

Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District  
2425 Floral Avenue  
P.O. Box 278  
Selma, CA 93662  
(559) 896-1085  
(800) 821-1577

## GENERAL INFORMATION

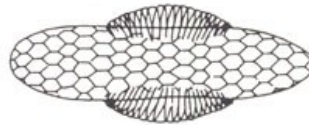
- Referred to as the “pasture” mosquito because it is commonly found in irrigated pastures.
- Medium-sized mosquito
- Black to brown coloration.
- Usually have a white band near the middle of the beak.
- Have a pale white stripe length-wise on the top of the abdomen.
- Bright white bands around the bases of each leg.
- Males appear similar to females but have bushy antennae on their heads and “claspers” on the tip of the abdomen.
- Found from Mexico to southern Canada throughout the Western and Central States.
- Common in all of California but most abundant in the great Central Valley due to the poor irrigation practices on pasture lands.

### Life Cycle

Mosquitoes have four distinct life stages. The first three stages are spent in the water.

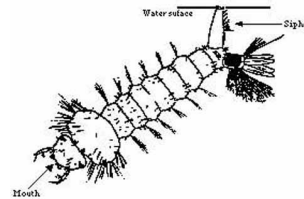
#### 1. Egg

- Lays up to 150 individual eggs on grass stems at or near the ground in moist places.
- The eggs remain unhatched until flooded. If irrigation does not occur some eggs can stay dormant and hatchable for several years.
- This stage lasts up to two days after flooding.



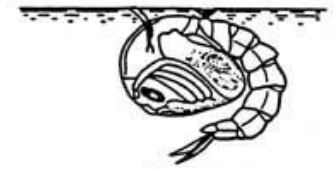
#### 2. Larvae

- The eggs hatch into larvae (wigglers).
- Feed on small organic particles and microorganisms in the water.
- Hang from the water surface by the tip of their tail when they feed.
- In hot climates this stage needs only 3 days for larval development but can take up to 10 days.



#### 3. Pupa

- The mosquito larva molts into an aquatic pupa (tumbler).
- The pupa is aquatic but can live in damp soil.
- Only active if it is disturbed.
- This is the “resting” stage of the mosquito’s life.
- This stage can last up to two days.



#### 4. Adult

- Mosquito development from egg to adult can take as little as four days for this mosquito or longer in cooler periods and localities.
- Life expectancy of an adult female usually ranges between two weeks and a month.

