

## HABITS

- Females:
  - Avid, persistent biters of man.
  - Prefer to feed outdoors but will enter houses occasionally to bite.
  - Most active during the day in the shade and in the early evening hours.
  - Need a blood meal to get protein to develop their eggs.
- Males:
  - Do not bite humans
  - Feed on nectar and plant juices

## ECONOMIC AND MEDICAL IMPORTANCE

- Pests in residential and recreational areas, especially where large trees are present.
- Can sometimes be small enough to pass through window screenings.
- Not known to transmit any diseases to man.
- Can transmit dog heartworm.

## CONTROL

### Prevention and Corrective Methods:

- Preventing mosquitoes from breeding is the best method.
- Fill tree holes with sand or soil.
- Bore a hole in the bottom of the tree to provide drainage.
- Rarely occur in artificial containers such as bird baths, buckets, tires, and flower pots with lots of leaf litter.



### Biological Control:

- Currently there is no known effective biological control method.

### Chemical Control:

- Chemical control of this species is essentially impossible. The best prevention method is to get rid of the tree holes themselves. This should be done during the winter months after the leaves have fallen, exposing the holes.
- Commonly available insect repellants are useful if you are in an area where this species is found.

# *AEDES SIERRENSIS*

## *Western Tree Hole 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

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- Referred to as the “tree hole” mosquito because the immature stages occur most frequently in water collected in the rot holes of trees.
  - Small size
  - Dark, almost black, color
  - Pointed abdomen
- White leg bands
- Common throughout California, Oregon, Washington, and parts of Idaho, Nevada, Montana, and Utah.
- Occur in locations ranging from near sea level to over 9,000 feet.
- Found in over 20 species of trees

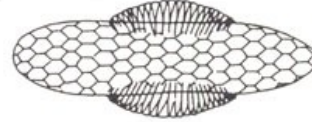


## Life Cycle

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

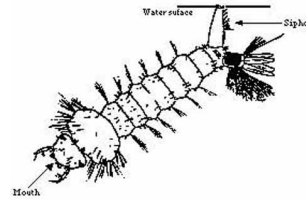
### 1. Egg

- Lays 150-200 individual eggs on the damp sides of the tree hole in the late spring and summer.
- Late fall and winter rains flood the hole.
- This stage lasts up to two days after flooding.



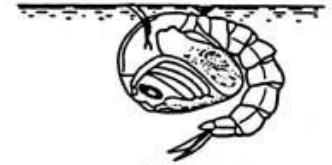
### 2. Larvae

- 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.
- Found in the tree holes throughout the winter and early spring.
- This stage lasts up to several months.



### 3. Pupa

- The mosquito larva molts into an aquatic pupa (tumbler).
- Only active if it is disturbed.
- This is the “resting” stage of the mosquitoes life.
- This stage lasts several days.



### 4. Adult

- Depending upon temperature and food in the water, development from egg to adult can take several weeks to several months.
- Life expectancy of an adult female usually ranges between two weeks and a few months.

