

## HABITS

- Females:
  - Readily bite man but prefer to bite birds.
  - Bite under low light intensity or in the dark..
  - Babies and children are the most susceptible.
  - make a humming noise at night which is an added irritant to the bite.
  - May feed on nectar and plant juices but need a blood meal for proper egg development.
- Males:
  - Feed on nectar and plant juices

## ECONOMIC AND MEDICAL IMPORTANCE

- Primary vector of West Nile Virus (WNV) in urban areas in California.
- Can transmit the organisms causing bird malaria, fowl pox, and dog heartworm.
- Carriers of filariasis in tropical locations of the world.

## CONTROL

### Prevention and Corrective Methods:

- Preventing mosquitoes from breeding is the best method.
- When possible, remove sources of standing water such as old tires, bird baths, flower pots, or abandoned pools.
  - Containers around the home should be checked weekly to remove standing water.



### Biological Control:

- The stocking of mosquito fish is often effective in sources such as fish ponds, pools, watering troughs, and sewage lagoons where the water is not too polluted for fish survival.
- Other biological control measures are currently being investigated.

### Chemical Control:

- Chemical control should only be practiced by a trained mosquito abatement or health department official.
- 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

## *CULEX QUINQUEFASCIATUS*

### *Southern House Mosquito*



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## GENERAL INFORMATION

- Commonly called the house mosquito due to its close relationship with man's environment and its habit of entering into houses and sometimes even breeding in containers indoors.
- Light brown in color
- Medium-sized with a blunt tipped abdomen.
- Narrow white bands on the abdominal segments but has no bands on the legs or beak.
- Males resemble the females but have bushy antennae and long "claspers" at the tip of their abdomen.
- Most widely distributed mosquito species in the world.
- Widespread throughout the U.S. and California.

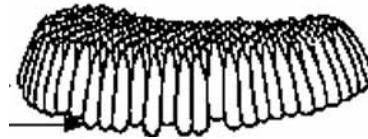


### Life Cycle

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

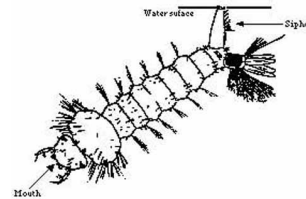
#### 1. Egg

- Lays 150– 200 eggs in clusters called "rafts" that float on the surface of the water until they hatch.
- Females prefer laying eggs in standing, somewhat polluted water.
- This stage lasts up to two days.



#### 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.
- This stage can last up to 10 days.



#### 3. Pupa

- The mosquito larva molts into an aquatic pupa (tumbler).
- 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

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

