

## HABITS

- Females:
  - Moderate but common biters of man, attacking at twilight and after dark.
  - May feed on man and domestic animals but prefer the blood of birds.
  - Feed on nectar and plant juices but need a blood meal for proper egg development.
- Males:
  - Do NOT bite.
  - Feed on nectar and plant juices

## ECONOMIC AND MEDICAL IMPORTANCE

- The most important known carrier of Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE) and St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE) in California.
- California Encephalitis (CE) virus has also been isolated from this species.
- Has a good potential to transmit Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis (VEE) virus if this disease should ever become established in California.
- One of the main species carrying West Nile Virus (WNV)

## CONTROL

### Prevention and Corrective Methods:

- Preventing mosquitoes from breeding is the best method.
- When possible, remove sources of standing water by filling, dumping, ditching, or otherwise draining the source.
- Only rarely found in containers about the home.

### Biological Control:

- The stocking of mosquito fish is often effective in sources such as fish ponds, pools, and watering troughs.
- 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 these are present

# CULEX TARSALIS

## *Encephalitis Mosquito*



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## GENERAL INFORMATION

- Referred to as the “encephalitis mosquito” because it is the primary vector (carrier) of encephalitis viruses in the western United States.
- Dark bodied
- Medium-sized with a prominent white band on its beak and white bands on the legs.
- White stripe on the sides of the rear legs and dark inverted V’s on the underside of a blunt-tipped abdomen.
- Males resemble the females except they have bushy antennae and long “claspers” on the tip of their abdomen.
- The most widespread mosquito species in California.
- Can be found from Mexico into Canada and in the western, central, and southwestern United States.

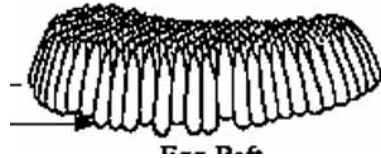


### Life Cycle

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

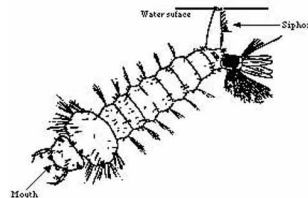
#### 1. Egg

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



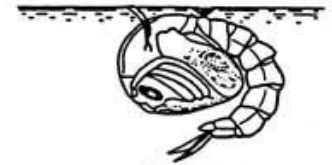
#### 2. Larvae

- 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.

