

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

AEDES NIGROMACULIS

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 lengthwise 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.

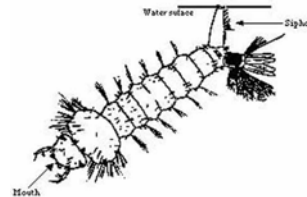
1. Egg

- 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.
- Eggs will hatch within minutes of 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.

