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

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

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 "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.

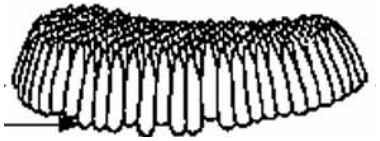
- Males resemble the females except they have bushy antennae and long "claspers" on the tip of their abdomen.
- The most widespread mosquito species in California.
- Can be found from Mexico into Canada and in the Western, Central, and Southwestern United

Life Cycle

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

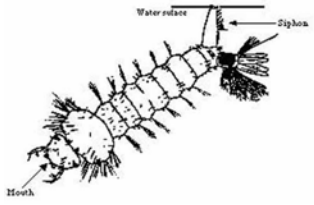
1. Egg

- 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.



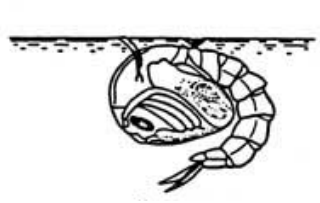
2. Larvae

- 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