

HABITS

Females:

- Avid biter feeding on man and other mammals.
- Bite during the twilight hours
- Must have a blood meal in order to produce eggs.
- Encountered around swimming pools, or while camping, working in the yard, or during outdoor activities such as a barbecue.

Males:

- Do not bite.
- Feed on nectar and plant juices.
- Male swarming flights may be observed around twilight.

ECONOMIC AND MEDICAL IMPORTANCE

- *Does not* appear to be important in the spread of Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE), St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE), or West Nile Virus (WNV).
- Considered to possibly be a transmitter of dog heartworm.

CONTROL

Prevention and Corrective Methods:

- Preventing mosquitoes from breeding is the best method.
- Eliminate or modify breeding areas by pumping, ditching, draining.
- Empty water weekly from:
 - bird baths
 - flower pots
 - buckets
 - old tires



Biological Control:

- Stocking mosquito fish in fish ponds, creeks, pools, and livestock watering troughs is an effective preventative measure.
- Other biological control measures are currently being studied by various research institutions.

Chemical Control:

- Provides only temporary relief and should only be practiced by trained mosquito abatement or health department personnel.
- Insect repellents may be useful if in an area where mosquitoes reside.

CULISTA INCIDENS

“Cool Weather” 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 “cool weather” mosquito because it only breeds in cool locations or in spring and the fall seasons in warmer locations.
- Large robust mosquitoes



- Dark brown to black in color
- Tip of the abdomen is blunt, with white cross bands present on all abdominal segments

- Spotted wings
- Hind legs have narrow white bands which overlap the joints.
- Males have long bushy antennae
- Occurs from Alaska to the Southern California border, primarily west of the Rocky Mountains.
- Females hibernate in the winter

Life Cycle

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

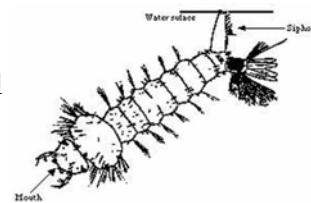
1. Egg

- Lays 150-200 eggs in clusters called “rafts”.
- Rafts float on the surface of the water
- This stage lasts up to two days.



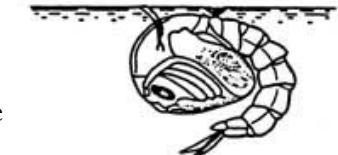
2. Larvae

- 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.
- Common in creeks, fish ponds, abandoned pools, reservoirs, snow pools, brackish water, horse troughs, artificial containers, and even discarded automobile tires.
- This stage lasts up to several weeks.



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 lasts up to two days.



4. Adult

- Dependent 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.

