

A Bug's Life

Drain fly

Family: Psychodidae
Clogmia albipunctata

Fun facts

- Also called moth flies because the adult resembles a tiny moth
- Usually found indoors from spring through fall
- Larvae feed on bacteria in organic sludge, adults feed on polluted water and flower nectar
- Adults are attracted to light
- Slow and clumsy fliers, often seen resting on walls close to source

Identification

Habitat: Plumbing lines in public restrooms; gelatinous film in drains, bathtubs, toilets, and showers in homes; sewage pipes

Larva: eyeless, legless, breathing tube at end of body

Adult: 1/8" in size, dark gray to black, hairy body, resemble tiny moth, many parallel wing veins, long antennae

Management

- Locate source of infestation. and stop the life cycle by eliminating breeding sites (mop water, backed-up drains)
- Keep areas around toilets, water-holding tanks, drains, and sinks free of excessive moisture
- Use enzyme cleaners (not bleach) to break down bacteria film in drains
- Contact licensed plumber to pinpoint problems and find solutions



Photos: J. Green