

A Bug's Life

Mosquitoes

Family: Culicidae

Fun facts

- Over 50 species of mosquitoes in NE
- Need water to survive
- Larvae eat aquatic microorganisms
- Adults feed on nectar from plants
- Only females feed on blood
- Hosts may include mammals, reptiles, birds and amphibians
- Deadliest animal in the world due to diseases transmitted to humans

Identification

Eggs: Laid on surface of water or in damp soil, singly or attached in rafts

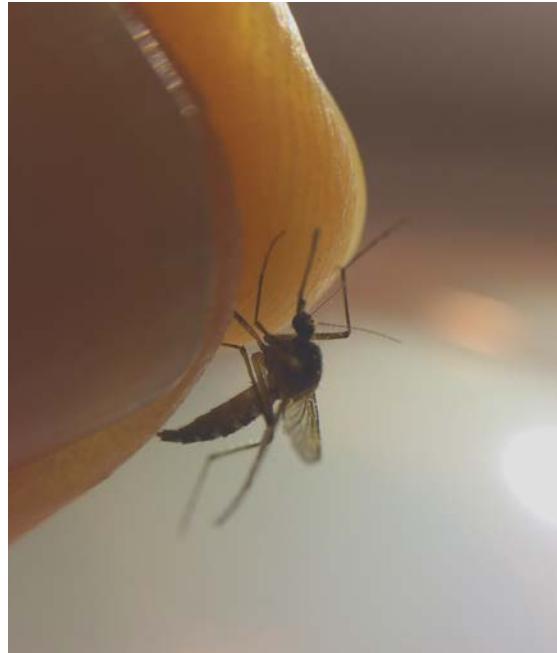
Larva: Live in water and breath with siphon tubes, called wigglers

Pupa: Resting stage called tumblers

Adult: Long legs, antennae and proboscis, females have short hairs on antennae, males are feathery

Management

- Dump standing water once a week
- Treat bodies of water with biorational larvacide (Bti)
- Install and repair screens
- Reduce vegetation and clutter
- Outdoor insecticide sprays provide only short-term relief
- Wear insect repellents
- Oscillating fan on outdoor porch



Photos: J. Green