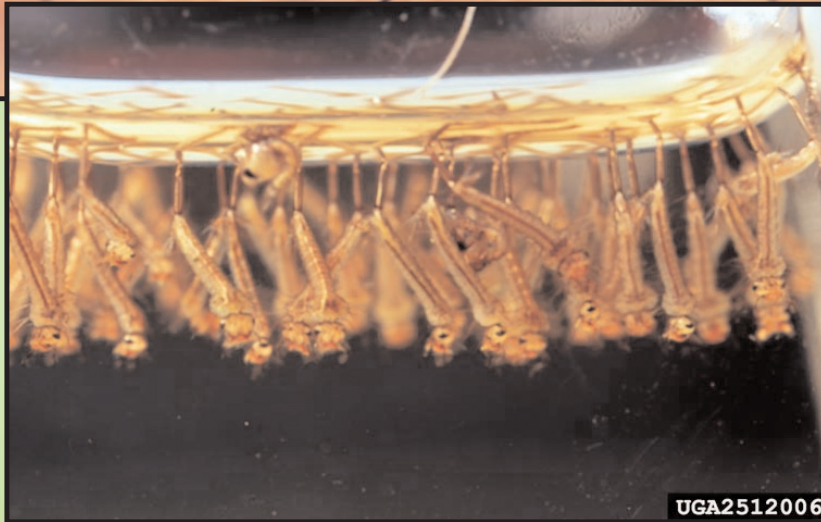


Mosquito



UGA2512006

GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

MOSQUITO

FAMILY: Culicidae

ORDER: Diptera (means "two" wings)

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ small, 1/4 inch or less
- ◆ slender body with long slender legs
- ◆ transparent wings with thin scales
- ◆ males have feathery antennae
- ◆ female has modified proboscis for piercing and sucking blood



Where to Look

Mosquitoes are found where there is standing water or in moist shady locations. Their numbers tend to increase after summer rains because there are more places to breed.

What It Eats

Adults mosquitoes feed on nectar and sap. Females also require blood to lay eggs. Mosquito larvae eat algae and aquatic invertebrates including other mosquito larvae.



Life Cycle

COMPLETE
METAMORPHOSIS

Eggs are laid in water or damp places. The larvae are aquatic and predatory. They develop into pupae from which the adult emerges.

Who Eats It?

The mosquito larvae and pupae are eaten by all kinds of aquatic animals including fish and frogs. Adults are eaten by birds, dragonflies and bats.

Role in the Ecosystem

Mosquito adults and larvae are an important food source for many aquatic animal species as well as birds and bats.



Did You Know

Some mosquitoes are carriers of fatal diseases including malaria, yellow fever and West Nile disease. Only the females bite and are the primary vectors of disease.