

## *Aedes vexans* (Meigen)

**OVERWINTERING STAGE:** Egg.

**PHENOLOGY:** Multivoltine.

### **LARVAL HABITAT:**

Larvae are found in a variety of habitats including open, shallow grass-filled depressions, ditches, temporary woodland pools and other areas associated with heavy rains and floodwater.

### **HOST PREFERENCES:**

*Ae. vexans* prefer to feed on large mammals such as deer, horses, cattle, and humans. However, they are generally considered to be opportunistic feeders and will feed on nearly any animal that is available. Adults are strong fliers and have been known to travel as far as 15 miles from their larval sites in search of hosts and/or breeding sites.

### **VIRUS TESTING RESULTS:**

Virus	# specimens tested	# pools tested	# positive pools	MIR
WNV	248,890*	8,130	16	0.06
EEE	13,571	329	0	0
La Crosse	50	2	0	0

\*99% were from host-seeking traps; 1% were from gravid traps

### **COMMENTS:**

This is one of the most common mosquitoes in the state and can be a major nuisance in areas that have recently experienced heavy rains. The eggs are laid on moist soil, require a period of drying before hatching and can remain viable for several years. They also exhibit hatching latency, whereby not all eggs will hatch when inundated the first time, but will hatch after a subsequent flooding. This mosquito's generalized feeding habits contribute to its potential to be a bridge vector of West Nile virus and other viruses. In addition, females can be fairly long-lived and can take as many as 8 blood meals in a season, which increases its likelihood of being infected by arboviruses. They have been implicated in the transmission cycles of WNV and EEE and have been shown to be a competent vector of Western Equine and St. Louis encephalitis viruses in the laboratory.

### **Distribution**

