

Anopheles crucians s.l.

OVERWINTERING STAGE: Larva.

PHENOLOGY: Multivoltine.

LARVAL HABITAT:

Larvae can be found in semi-permanent pools, ponds, lakes and swamps. They prefer water that is slightly acidic and under partial shade.

HOST PREFERENCES:

Females prefer to feed on mammalian hosts and will bite humans during the day or night.

VIRUS TESTING RESULTS:

Virus	# specimens tested	# pools tested	# positive pools	MIR
WNV	60	14	0	0
EEE	0	0	0	0
La Crosse	0	0	0	0

COMMENTS:

An. crucians s.l. is a complex of species that includes *An. crucians* Wiedemann, *An. bradleyi* King and *An. georgianus* King. Adults and larvae of these species are nearly impossible to differentiate morphologically. In a recent study, Wilkerson et. al (2004) used molecular techniques to attempt to differentiate these species and they concluded that the complex actually contains six species. The new species have not yet been named. No molecular analyses have been performed on PA specimens to date, so it is not possible to know for sure which species inhabit the state. *An. crucians* s.l is essentially a southern complex of mosquitoes whose range of one or more of the species extends to the southeast portion of Pennsylvania. Only 460 adult specimens were collected from 2001-2007 and 82% of those were taken from the southeastern portion of the state. The literature indicates that this species is probably more attracted to CO₂+octenol than to CO₂ alone. *An. crucians* has been found to be naturally infected with malaria, but they're too uncommon in PA to play a major role if malaria were introduced in the summer months.

Distribution

