

Coquillettidia perturbans (Walker)

OVERWINTERING STAGE: Larva.

PHENOLOGY: Univoltine.

LARVAL HABITAT:

Wetlands with muddy bottoms and abundant vegetation are the preferred habitat. The presence of thick muck or peat appears to be more important than the plant species as larvae have been collected from the roots of cattails (*Typha sp.*), arrowhead (*Sagitaria sp.*), pickerelweed (*Pontederia sp.*), water lily (*Nymphaea sp.*), rushes (*Juncus sp.*), reeds (*Phragmites sp.*), sedges (*Carex sp.*), and water arum (*Calla sp.*).

HOST PREFERENCES:

Cq. perturbans prefer to feed on mammals, including humans. However, they will readily feed on birds as well. Peak feeding activity typically occurs at dusk.

VIRUS TESTING RESULTS:

Virus	# specimens tested	# pools tested	# positive pools	MIR
WNV	111,241*	2,381	2	0.02
EEE	51,928	914	0	0
La Crosse	165	6	0	0

*99% were from host-seeking traps; 1% were from gravid traps or resting boxes

COMMENTS:

Larvae have respiratory siphons that are attenuated and modified into saw-shaped structures used to pierce the stems and roots of submerged vegetation. They obtain oxygen from the air tubes within the plants, which enables the larvae to remain submerged for their entire larval development. The pupae also remain submerged, using modified trumpets to pierce aquatic vegetation. Larvae can detach readily and burrow in the substrate if they are disturbed. Larval collection is challenging since larvae do not need to surface to breathe. Larval collection techniques that have been used with some success include uprooting host plants, scraping intact plant stems with a screened dipper, and using a modified bilge pump to collect substrate near plant roots. Females are involved in the transmission cycle of EEE.

Distribution

