

Culex restuans Theobald

OVERWINTERING STAGE: Adult female. **PHENOLOGY:** Multivoltine.

It is generally agreed that this species survives the winter as hibernating adult females. However, extensive winter sampling from caves, root cellars, bank barns, abandoned buildings, tunnels and spring houses have not yielded any specimens.

LARVAL HABITAT:

Larvae can be found in a wide variety of habitats including artificial containers, catch basins, ditches, puddles, temporary pools, and ponds. They are tolerant of pollution, but not to the same degree as *Cx. pipiens*.

HOST PREFERENCES:

Most recent bloodmeal analysis studies reveal a strong preference for avian blood. Amphibians, reptiles and mammals are also sometimes fed upon. Some older literature indicates that females can be pests of humans on occasion.

VIRUS TESTING RESULTS:

Virus	# specimens tested	# pools tested	# positive pools	MIR
WNV	1,147,617*	52,486	1,196	1.04
EEE	11,080	419	0	0
La Crosse	793	37	0	0

*96% were from gravid traps, 4% were from host-seeking traps

COMMENTS:

This is probably the most common species of mosquito in Pennsylvania because they are able to exploit a wide range of habitats including both artificial containers and natural habitats.

Cx. restuans is clearly one of the species principally responsible for the early season amplification of WNV based on their bird biting habits, their extreme abundance early in the season and on the large number of pools that have tested positive, second only to *Cx. pipiens*. Their role in the transmission of WNV to humans is not yet well-defined.

Distribution

