

Culex salinarius Coquillett

OVERWINTERING STAGE: Adult female.

PHENOLOGY: Multivoltine.

Females overwinter in natural shelters such as animal burrows rather than in dwellings as with *Cx. pipiens*. This species is capable of coming out of diapause to seek a blood meal on warm winter days. No overwintering specimens have been collected in Pennsylvania.

LARVAL HABITAT:

Larvae can be found in brackish or freshwater wetlands and are often associated with *Phragmites*. They are also frequently taken from temporary, grassy pools. Larvae prefer natural habitats to artificial ones, but they are occasionally found in tires and other containers.

HOST PREFERENCES:

Cx. salinarius is an opportunistic feeder that will readily bite both birds and mammals, including humans. Females are most active shortly after dusk.

VIRUS TESTING RESULTS:

Virus	# specimens tested	# pools tested	# positive pools	MIR
WNV	276,454*	9,747	124	0.45
EEE	14,924	234	0	0
La Crosse	37	2	0	0

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

COMMENTS:

Although this mosquito is widely distributed throughout the state, its distribution is quite uneven. Over 80% of adults were collected from only two wetlands about 10 miles apart in Philadelphia. This species is considered to be an important potential bridge vector of WNV because of its willingness to bite both birds and mammals and its moderately high field infection rates in many parts of the U.S. In Pennsylvania, WNV infection rates are the 3rd highest of all species after *Cx. pipiens* and *Cx. restuans*. This species is also considered a secondary vector of EEE throughout its range.

