

Culex tarsalis Coquillett

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

LARVAL HABITAT:

Larvae can be found in permanent and semi-permanent ponds, ditches with vegetation, temporary pools, artificial containers, agricultural tailwater, alkaline lake beds, fresh and saline wetlands, treated sewage effluent and oil field run-off.

HOST PREFERENCES:

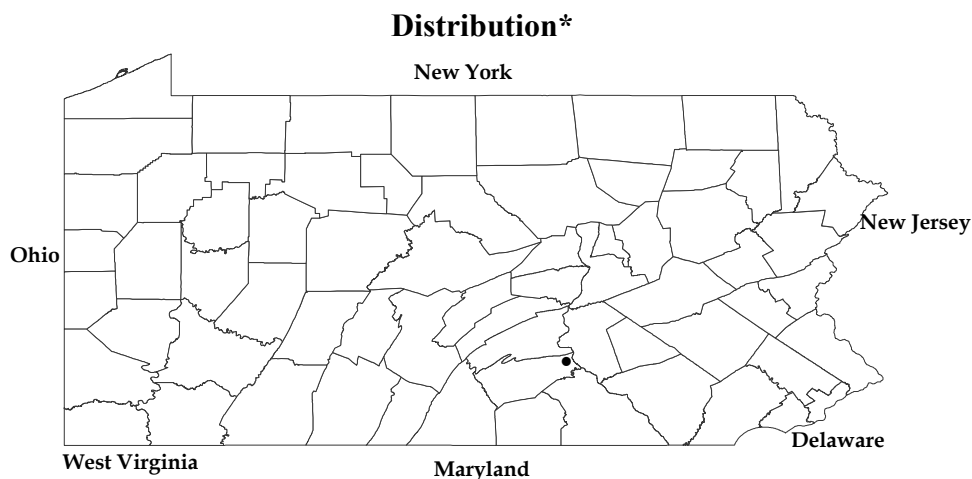
Females will feed on birds early in the season and will switch their feeding preferences to mammals later in the season. They are known to feed on rabbits, horses, cattle, humans and many species of birds. Adults are strong fliers and have been known to travel up to 17 miles in search of hosts, mates and/or oviposition sites.

VIRUS TESTING RESULTS:

No specimens were tested for any arboviruses in Pennsylvania.

COMMENTS:

This species' willingness to feed heavily on both birds and mammals makes it an ideal candidate as a bridge vector of encephalitis viruses. It is the most important vector in western North America for St. Louis, West Nile and Western equine viruses. It is also an efficient laboratory vector of Japanese and Venezuelan viruses. This species has only been collected once in Pennsylvania in 1970 from an army depot in Cumberland County. It is likely that this collection was the result of an accidental introduction from the transport of military equipment.



*Historical record.