

Culiseta morsitans (Theobald)

OVERWINTERING STAGE: Egg.

PHENOLOGY: Reportedly univoltine

This species overwinters as desiccant-resistant eggs in the form of a raft.

LARVAL HABITAT:

Larvae can be found in semi-permanent swamps, cattail swamps, acidic bogs, temporary woodland pools, cedar swamps, cold rain-filled pools and marshes. They tend to aggregate near emergent vegetation, partially submerged stumps and root mats.

HOST PREFERENCES:

The primary hosts for this species are birds. In addition to birds, they will occasionally feed on small mammals and snakes, but typically not humans. Females do not fly far from their larval habitats in search of hosts.

VIRUS TESTING RESULTS:

Virus	# specimens tested	# pools tested	# positive pools	MIR
WNV	180	24	0	0
EEE	15	6	0	0
La Crosse	0	0	0	0

COMMENTS:

The literature reports that there is only one generation per year and that it is rare to find adults into the summer. In Pennsylvania, most specimens were collected from July-September suggesting multiple generations or long-lived adults. They are rather uncommon in the state, with less than 1,000 adults and larvae being collected. Female egg laying behavior is unusual for a *Culiseta* in that the egg rafts are laid on moist soil or leaf litter about 1.5-2 inches *above* the water line. EEE has been isolated from this species in New York suggesting they may be involved in the transmission cycle of the virus.

