

Ochlerotatus dorsalis (Meigen)

OVERWINTERING STAGE: Egg.

PHENOLOGY: Multivoline.

LARVAL HABITAT:

Larvae prefer alkaline habitats and can also tolerate water with a high salt content.

HOST PREFERENCES:

This species has the ability to migrate at least 30 miles in search of hosts, mates and/or oviposition sites. Females are extremely aggressive human biters. Their preferred hosts are large mammals, especially domestic animals and humans, but they will also feed on large birds.

VIRUS TESTING RESULTS:

| Virus | # specimens tested | # pools tested | # positive pools | MIR |
|-----------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|-----|
| WNV | 7,896 | 175 | 0 | 0 |
| EEE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| La Crosse | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

COMMENTS:

Nearly all of the roughly 15,000 specimens that were collected in Pennsylvania came from only 2 locations. One location was a hide tannery in Tioga County that used salts and alkaline dyes in its hide processing operation. The effluent from that procedure accumulated in several holding ponds. Those ponds were extremely productive habitats for *Oc. dorsalis* and also for *Culex pipiens*. That facility is no longer active and the ponds have since been filled in with soil. No collections of *Oc. dorsalis* have been taken in Tioga County since 2002.

The second location is a large, artificial lake in Beaver County that is the repository for alkaline fly ash from a coal-fired power plant. This population was first detected in 2006 as a result of numerous complaints of mosquito bites from adjacent property owners, many of whom had lived in the area for years without any significant mosquito pest problems.

At both locations, this species appears to be unable to maintain viable populations outside of these very unique habitats.

Distribution

