

Ochlerotatus j. japonicus (Theobald)

OVERWINTERING STAGE: Egg.

PHENOLOGY: Multivoltine.

LARVAL HABITAT:

Larvae can be collected in a wide variety of artificial containers including tires, birdbaths, wooden and concrete barrels, porcelain bathtubs, tarps, toys and earthenware containers. Favored natural containers include tree holes and rock pools.

HOST PREFERENCES:

Bloodmeal studies show that this species is predominantly a mammalian feeder, including humans. In the laboratory, they feed readily on chickens, mice, guinea pigs, and humans.

VIRUS TESTING RESULTS:

Virus	# specimens tested	# pools tested	# positive pools	MIR
WNV	73,138*	13,763	12	0.16
EEE	645	112	0	0
La Crosse	23,386	3,459	0	0

*94% were from gravid traps, 6% were from host-seeking traps

COMMENTS:

This is one of the most common and widely distributed species in the state despite not being discovered in North America until 1998 in NY, NJ, and CT. Vector competency studies in the laboratory show that females are capable of transmitting EEE, La Crosse, St. Louis, and WNV viruses. The inability to yield a positive result of La Crosse virus in PA despite substantial testing efforts suggests that La Crosse is either rare in the state (despite its prevalence in West Virginia and Ohio) or *Oc. japonicus* does not feed heavily on typical La Crosse intermediate hosts such as chipmunks or foxes.

