

Ochlerotatus sollicitans (Walker)

OVERWINTERING STAGE: Egg.

PHENOLOGY: Multivoltine.

LARVAL HABITAT:

Larvae show a preference for saline water and are common along the east coast of the United States. They are also capable of exploiting inland saline water situations such as those from oil fields, mine tailings, wastewater holding ponds from various industrial plants, or roadside ditches with a high salt content.

HOST PREFERENCES:

Females are major human pests along the Atlantic seaboard. They prefer to feed in the evening, but will attack during the day if hosts enter their habitat. Females feed primarily on mammals, but will also take blood from birds. They are extremely strong fliers and have been collected many miles from their larval habitats, although most probably do not travel more than 5 miles.

VIRUS TESTING RESULTS:

Virus	# specimens tested	# pools tested	# positive pools	MIR
WNV	11	7	0	0
EEE	0	0	0	0
La Crosse	0	0	0	0

COMMENTS:

This species appears sporadically in Pennsylvania. Its presence is often associated with saline situations from industrial lagoons, power plant wastewater retention basins, or ponds associated with oil fields.

