

Orthopodomyia signifera (Coquillett)

OVERWINTERING STAGE: Larva.

PHENOLOGY: Multivoltine.

LARVAL HABITAT:

Larvae can be found in tree holes and artificial containers, including tires. They are relatively intolerant of low temperatures and mortality rates are high when their larval habitats become completely frozen.

HOST PREFERENCES:

Females of this species probably feed primarily on birds, although they may not always require a blood meal to develop a batch of eggs. They have been induced to feed on chickens and on pads of rabbit blood in the laboratory. This species is not known to feed on humans.

VIRUS TESTING RESULTS:

Virus	# specimens tested	# pools tested	# positive pools	MIR
WNV	18	17	0	0
EEE	0	0	0	0
La Crosse	0	0	0	0

COMMENTS:

This species is uncommon and females are not readily attracted to traps. Most of the roughly 100 females collected were taken from gravid traps in July, August and September. Nearly 450 larvae were collected, mostly from artificial containers.

