

# *Psorophora ferox* (von Humboldt)

**OVERWINTERING STAGE:** Egg.

**PHENOLOGY:** Multivoltine.

**LARVAL HABITAT:**

Larvae are most often found in temporary rain-filled pools. Secondary habitats include potholes from dried streambeds, woodland pools and wetlands.

**HOST PREFERENCES:**

Females feed primarily on mammals, especially rabbits, deer and cattle, but will also feed on an occasional bird or reptile. Females are extremely aggressive and painful human biters.

**VIRUS TESTING RESULTS:**

Virus	# specimens tested	# pools tested	# positive pools	MIR
WNV	17,749	456	0	0
EEE	192	7	0	0
La Crosse	0	0	0	0

**COMMENTS:**

After heavy rains, this species is one of the most aggressive and abundant pest species in Pennsylvania. Mating occurs at the female emergence sites, so males don't swarm as with most mosquito species.

**Distribution**

