

## *Wyeomyia smithii* (Coquillett)

**OVERWINTERING STAGE:** Larva.

**PHENOLOGY:** Multivoltine.

### **LARVAL HABITAT:**

The larvae can only be found within the water filled leaves of pitcher plants, which grow primarily in acidic bog habitats.

### **HOST PREFERENCES:**

No blood meal has ever been recorded from this species in the northern part of its range. Southern populations have been known to seek mammalian blood.

### **VIRUS TESTING RESULTS:**

No specimens were tested for any arboviruses in Pennsylvania.

### **COMMENTS:**

This species does not require a blood meal for egg production, relying on leftover larval fat body to develop its first batch of eggs. Larvae are capable of cutaneous respiration, so they do not need to surface to breathe. They feed on the remains of insects and other debris in the leaves of pitcher plants. Larvae are capable of surviving even if the water in the leaves freezes solid over the winter. Adults are most easily obtained from larval rearing.

