

DRONE-FLY

The Latin name for this fly is *Eristalis tenax*.

This fly, which is found in most parts of the world, resembles the honey-bee, although it has 2 wings instead of 4.

This is a medium-sized hover-fly with a body length of 1.2-1.4cm.

The adults hover frequently, and can often be seen in sunny sheltered areas, especially where flowers are abundant.

The white eggs are laid near manure heaps or on the edge of stagnant water; this is where the larvae migrate. The larvae swim freely, breathing through their tails, which can be extended to 6 inches to reach the water surface. They move to drier earth to pupate. The larvae are also known as *Rat-tailed maggots*.

Drone flies can be seen throughout the year, for some over-winter in places such as caves and hollow trees.