



often becomes a biting pest to humans at this time. The larva is a filter-feeder on algae, microscopic organisms and plant debris. The adult female feeds on blood.

HABITATS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> bottomland forests | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rivers & streams |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lakes, ponds & reservoirs | <input type="checkbox"/> swamps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> temp water supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> marshes | <input type="checkbox"/> wet prairies & fens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> peatlands | |

ILLINOIS STATUS

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> common | <input type="checkbox"/> endangered | <input type="checkbox"/> threatened |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> native | <input type="checkbox"/> exotic | |

ILLINOIS RANGE

statewide

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999. *Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.

black fly

representative species

Kingdom: Animalia
 Division/Phylum: Arthropoda
 Class: Insecta
 Order: Diptera
 Family: Simuliidae

FEATURES

Black flies undergo complete metamorphosis (egg, larva, pupa, adult). The larva may grow to one-fourth inch in length. A distinctive trait of the larva's body is that one end is wider than the other. The black fly larva breathes through its body surface. It has a black head and usually has a pair of foldable, fanlike structures on the anterior end. A suction pad helps the larva to remain in one place in the stream. The larva may be green, brown, gray or black. The adult black fly is black or gray with a humped thorax, short antennae, short legs and wings that are broad at the base. The adult is very small.

BEHAVIORS

The larva and pupal stages of the black fly live in cool streams. Adults are terrestrial. The female black fly deposits eggs on submerged vegetation or other items in water in midsummer. The larva attaches itself to rocks on the stream bottom with a pad of silk it spins and with hooks on its abdomen. Transformation into the adult stage occurs in late spring and early summer. The female adult needs a blood meal to nourish the developing eggs and