



deer fly

representative species

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

FEATURES

Deer flies undergo complete metamorphosis (egg, larva, nymph, adult). They have one pair of membranous wings and hind wings in the form of small, knobbed remnants. The sucking mouthparts allow for ingestion of liquid foods. The deer fly adult is about the size of a house fly. The body is black or brown, and there are dark spots on the wings.

BEHAVIORS

Deer fly larvae, called maggots, are semiaquatic, pupating in moist soil, or aquatic. Adults are often found near where the larvae develop but may fly several miles away. Deer fly eggs are laid on vegetation above the water. Newly hatched larvae drop into the water and feed on invertebrates. The larvae overwinter and pupate during the following summer. The female deer fly sucks blood while the male feeds on plant juices.

HABITATS

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