



mosquito

representative species

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

FEATURES

Mosquitoes undergo complete metamorphosis (egg, larva, pupa, adult). The larvae of some mosquito species hang upside down from the water's surface, extending the abdominal breathing tube to obtain oxygen. The larvae of other mosquito species lack a breathing tube and spend much time at the surface. The adult has long, narrow wings with scales along the wing veins and wing margins. The male has very hairy antennae, but the female's antennae have only a few hairs.

BEHAVIORS

Mosquito larvae and pupae live in the still or stagnant water of ponds, marshes, swamps, lakes, tree holes and containers with water. The female mosquito lays floating eggs in a group in stagnant water or near water, where they will hatch when flooded. The larva is a scavenger, eating algae, microscopic animals and debris. The female feeds on blood, but the male eats nectar and plant sap.

HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- lakes, ponds & reservoirs
- Lake Michigan
- marshes
- peatlands
- rivers & streams
- swamps
- temp water supplies
- wet prairies & fens

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

statewide

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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