



ILLINOIS STATUS

common endangered threatened
 native exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.

Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.

deer fly

representative specimen

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

FEATURES

The deer fly undergoes complete metamorphosis (egg, larva, nymph, adult). It has one pair of membranous wings and hind wings in the form of small, knobbed remnants. Its 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

The deer fly may be found statewide in Illinois. Deer fly larvae, called maggots, are semiaquatic, pupating in moist soil, or aquatic. The adult is often found near where the larvae develop but may fly several miles away. Newly hatched larvae 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

bottomland forests
 coniferous forest
 southern Illinois lowlands
 upland deciduous forest