



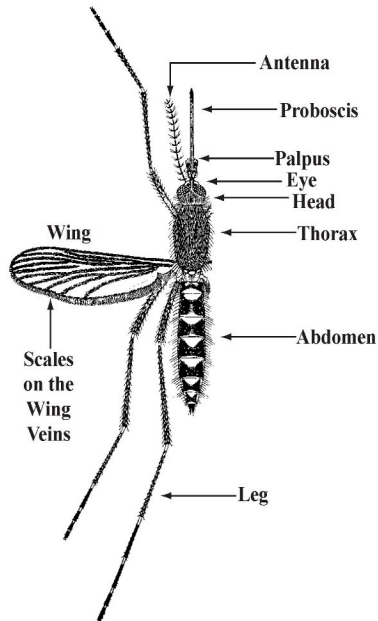
MOSQUITO VIEWS



A PUBLICATION BY CALVERT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES
MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM

Mosquito Facts

Adult Female Mosquito



How Far Do Mosquitoes Fly?

Most mosquitoes fly only short distances from where they hatch. Some species can fly many miles from where they hatch. Riding on an airplane, a mosquito can fly many thousands of miles. Airlines spray to kill any hijacking mosquitoes, preventing species from invading other countries.



Aedes Albopictus

Why Do Mosquito Bites Itch?

When a mosquito bites, it injects chemicals to prevent the blood from clotting and reduce pain. These chemicals cause irritation.

How Do Mosquitoes Choose Who To Bite?

Mosquitoes are attracted by CO₂ (Carbon dioxide) in our breath. They can detect this from great distances. When the female mosquito gets close, she makes a final choice using skin temperature, odor and other chemical or visual factors. If two people are outside together, one will almost always get most of the mosquito bites.

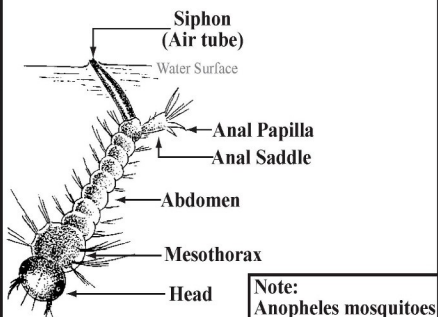
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Mature Mosquito Larva



Do All Mosquitoes Suck Our Blood?

Only the female mosquitoes feed on blood. Male mosquitoes feed on plant nectar and juices.

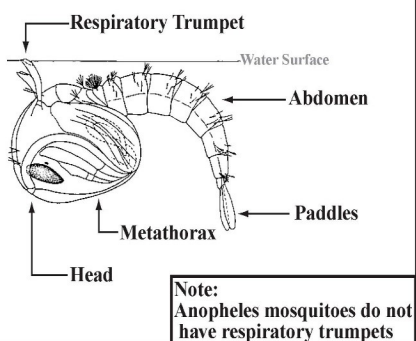
Some species only feed on the blood of amphibians (frogs). Mosquitoes have been observed feeding on other insects, even other mosquitoes.

Male and female mosquitoes in the genus *Toxorhynchites* feed on plant nectar. The minute mosquitoes in the genus *Malaya* wait for ants then thrust their proboscis between the mandibles (jaws) of the ant. The ant then feeds on the mosquito.

What do mosquito larvae and pupae eat?

Mosquito larvae eat organic material, bacteria and microscopic plants and animals found in water. Pupae do not feed.

Mosquito Pupa



Mosquito Sources in your Backyard

The main rule when it comes to breeding grounds for mosquitoes is that they need stagnant water in order to lay their eggs. What most people don't realize is the surprising number of areas around their own house where mosquitoes can find the stagnant water they need.

The main rule: If it can hold water for more than a few days, it can breed mosquitoes.



Fishponds: Those most delightful of water features can be home to more than just your fish. Mosquitoes find this to be an ideal breeding ground, especially if the pond is in a state of disuse. This can not only increase the local mosquito population, but it also makes you very unpopular with your neighbors.

Solution: If the pond is in disuse, Calvert County Mosquito Control can provide you with mosquito fish free of charge. If you have an active fishpond, make sure you remove excess vegetation, as that can provide a stable place for mosquitoes to breed.



Swimming pools: Most of the time, this isn't a problem when the pool is maintained. But when a pool is neglected, it becomes a large pool of stagnant water, and it becomes a large breeding ground for mosquitoes as well.

Solution: Maintain your pool! How can you have a pool party otherwise? If you can't do that, contact Calvert County Mosquito Control and ask them about getting mosquito fish. These fish can easily survive in your pool, and they will devour the mosquito larvae.



Bird bath: They're pretty, they attract birds...and mosquitoes, unfortunately. This is a big source of mosquito problems that most people overlook, especially if they have a bird bath and don't pay much attention to it in the first place (as in "it came with the house, but I never wanted one."). Because it is a shallow source of water, the water is warmer, and it actually encourages mosquitoes to grow faster!

Solution: This is pretty easy. All you really have to do is exchange the water that is inside of the bird bath every few days. In plain English: Wash it out with your hose!

Continued...



Clogged rain gutter: It happens every year. The trees lose their leaves, dropping them onto your roof, and the yearly rains drop the leaves into your gutter, creating little pools of standing water above your heads. They last longer than you realize, and when mosquito season comes around, they have the perfect place to breed.

Solution: There's only one solution, sadly. Roll up your sleeves, and clear out that rain gutter-- before the weather becomes too warm. Better yet, hire a professional to do it for you.



Tarps: You use these to cover those things you don't want hit by the rain; logs, truck beds, boats, whatever. Unfortunately, as good as they are in protecting your belongings, there are sometimes dips in the tarps that can trap stagnant water. And all it takes is a little water...

Solution: If the weather is nice, you really don't need those tarps out, do you? At the very least, you can just remove the tarp, shake it off, and replace it every few days or so if you really need to keep something covered year round.



Old tires: Most people don't realize how perfect this is for mosquitoes. People leave their old tires outside, they catch rain, and it's almost impossible to empty out all the water inside (seriously, have you tried? Not an easy task). If even a little water is left, that's enough for mosquitoes to breed in.

Solution: The best solution is to simply get rid of the tires. Take them to the dump, or pay a tire store or gas station to take and recycle them. If for some reason you feel the need to keep them, drill some holes into them so they can drain, and keep them in a place where they will stay dry.

Remember: Anything that can hold water for more than a few days can be a potential breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Target the source!

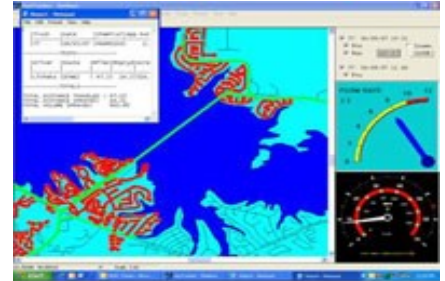
Computer Technology & Mosquito Control

Today, one of the most important tools in our arsenal against mosquitoes is not a new spray machine or some high tech insecticide, but a computer. Computer technology, as in most industries, has become an intricate part of a modern mosquito control operation.

Our new GPS tracking systems, Adapco Monitor 4S, give us the ability to know the location, time, speed, chemical flow, dosage rate and direction of travel at any given time.

The goal of Calvert County Mosquito Control is to control mosquitoes in a safe, efficient, and economic manner.

Contributions to this fact sheet, in part, by Alameda County Mosquito Control and Colorado Mosquito Control.



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