



The Valley Buzz!

Low-Flyers - High Biters!

Aedes aegypti, colloquially known as ankle biters, differ from our native mosquitoes in some significant ways. They tend to fly lower to the ground and bite us on our calves, feet, and ankles. They also will bite us multiple times, taking a "sip" then retreating before we can recognize and swat them! They will do this as long as they can or until they get a full bloodmeal. Our native species tend to stay in one spot until they are full. This behavior is what we notice most, when we go outside and swear we didn't see any mosquitoes, yet in a day or two, or legs are covered in bites!

Repellents applied to the skin or clothing are really the best way to reduce your chance of becoming the next *Aedes* pincushion. The active ingredients DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, and IR3535 are the longest lasting and most effective available. Try a few different types and find what works best for you!



***Aedes Aegypti* Female - notice the characteristic black and white scales**

Brushes and Filaments, or How to Tell Mosquitoes Apart!

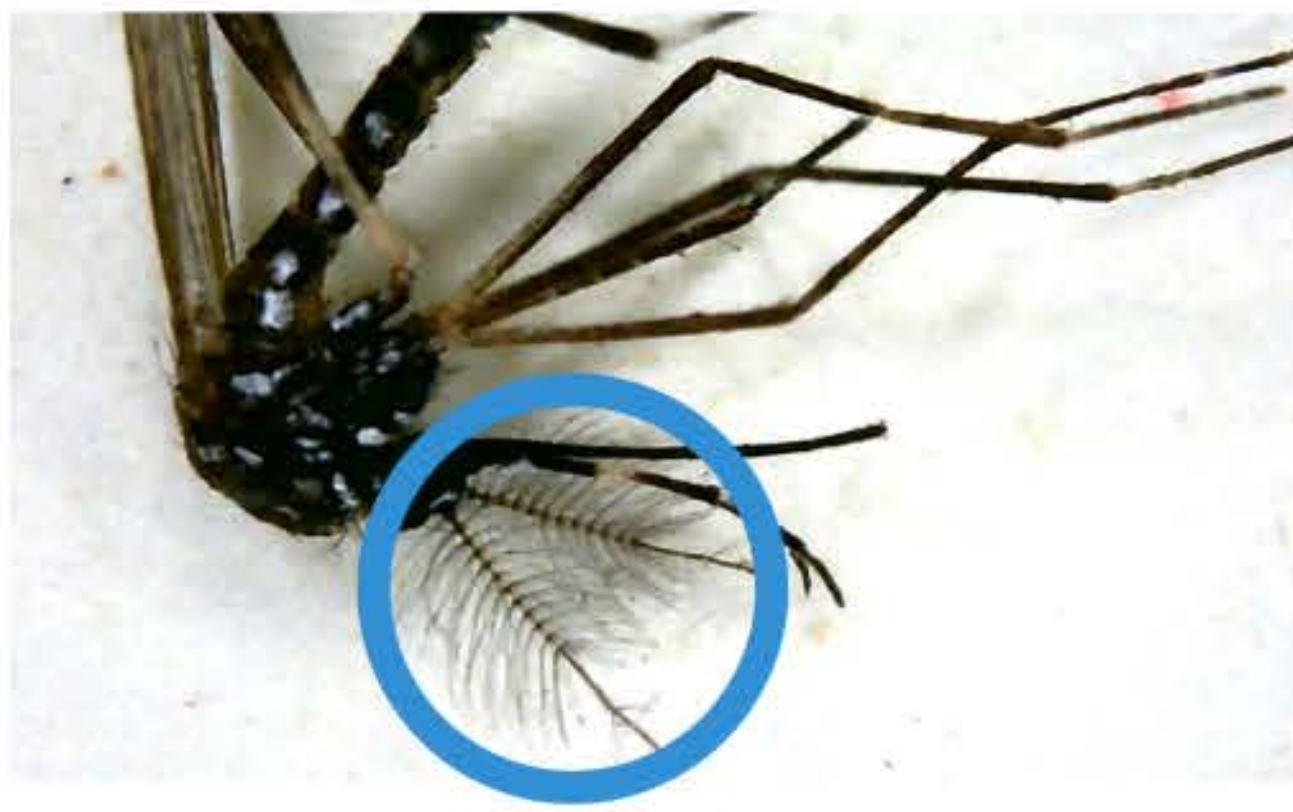
When a mosquito emerges in its adult form from the pupal case, they have only a few directives. Find food, find shelter, and find a mate.

To do a lot of these tasks, mosquitoes use their antennae.

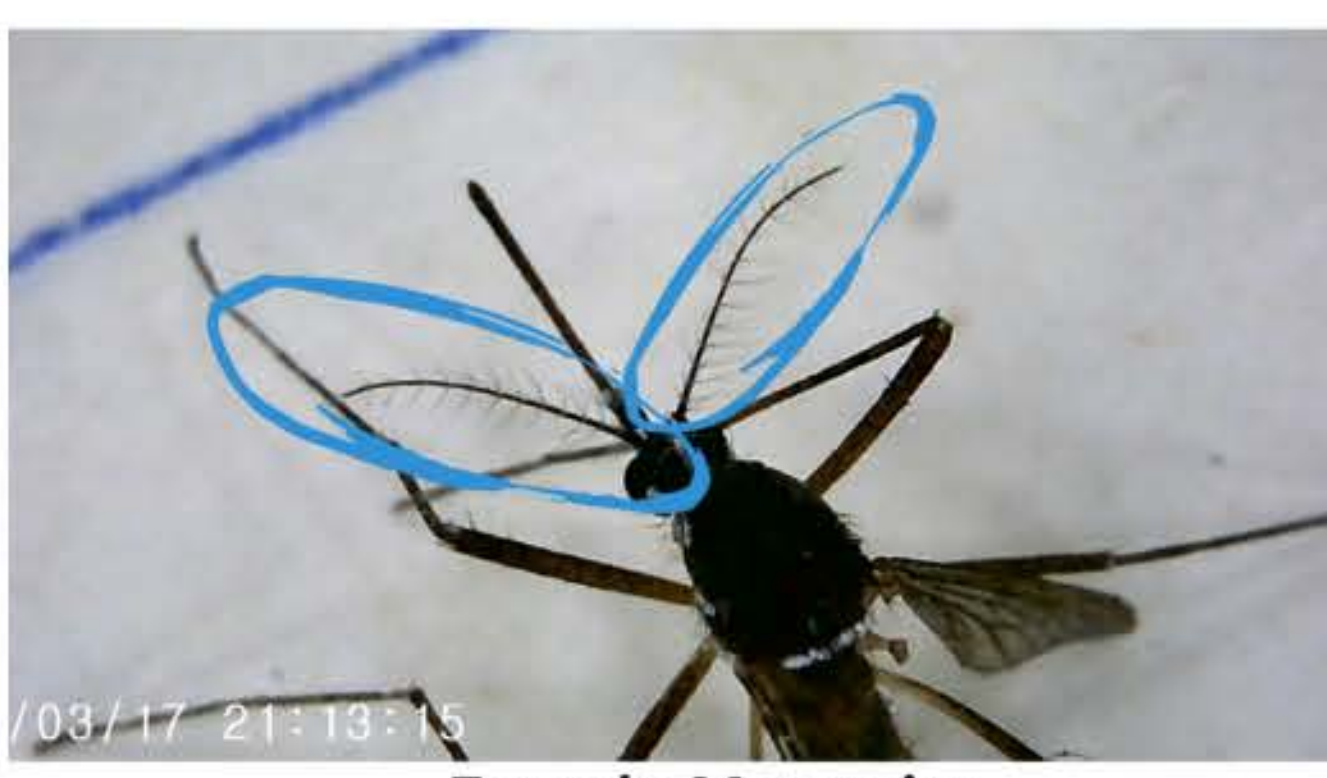
Female mosquitoes have thin, strand-like antennae they use to identify carbon dioxide emissions from warm-blooded critters (like us!). Male mosquitoes have bushy, feathery antennae they use to "hear" female mosquitoes' wingbeats.

There is one other guaranteed tell-tale sign - only female mosquitoes bite, so if you find one nibbling on you, it's female!

We don't expect you to get close enough to check out a mosquito's antenna though! If they're getting too close for comfort, call us for help!



Male Mosquito



Female Mosquito

The District and You!

The District has been working hard to keep mosquito populations down, and so far, we've been very pleased with the results. Overall, we are seeing significant mosquito population reductions throughout the District.

The District's successes can be attributed to the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program and the hard work District Technicians and Laboratory staff put in. Technical staff investigate and mitigate any potential breeding sources they find and maintain our In2Care attract and kill stations all across our cities. Laboratory staff trap and monitor mosquito populations and species by setting numerous traps and maintain and release our sterile male mosquitoes throughout the district.

Cohesive and data driven IPM strategies are making a certainly making a difference, but the most important item is the part YOU play in mosquito control! Keep dumping and draining standing water so mosquitoes won't have a place to lay eggs and call us or visit our website to set up a service request if you are experiencing mosquito issues around your areas. Together targeting mosquitoes, we can reduce our risk of disease!



Technical Staff inspecting swimming pool



**Laboratory Staff
releasing
sterilized male
Aedes
mosquitoes**



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