

# *Culex pipiens*



**Introduction:** The *Culex pipiens* is the most widely distributed species in the world, and can be found on every continent except Antarctica. The adult female is golden brown and can be recognized by its blunt rather than pointed abdominal tip. This species of mosquito has shown great skill in finding ways to get into homes where it feeds on their occupants at night. It is for this reason that it known as the “Northern House” mosquito. Although females of this species will also feed outdoors they prefer to shelter themselves in protected locations.

**Life Cycle:** Females hibernate through the winter in protected locations such as cellars and basements. In late spring they will lay rafts that contain several hundred eggs which will float on top of the water for 3-5 days before hatching, after this first brood several generations will occur throughout the summer.

**Habitat:** The larvae of *Culex pipiens* prefer water that contains organic pollutants. It is for this reason that they can be found breeding in such location such as catch basins, storm drains, rain barrels, ponds, and sewage treatment effluent.

**Disease:** This species of mosquito is a vector for many diseases including Saint Louis encephalitis, Western Equine encephalitis, Dog Heart Worm and West Nile Virus.

**Control:** Due to the nature of the breeding locations this species of mosquito should be carefully monitored, and a regiment of the bacterial larvicides *Bacillus thuringiensis*, and *Bacillus sphaericus* should be applied.