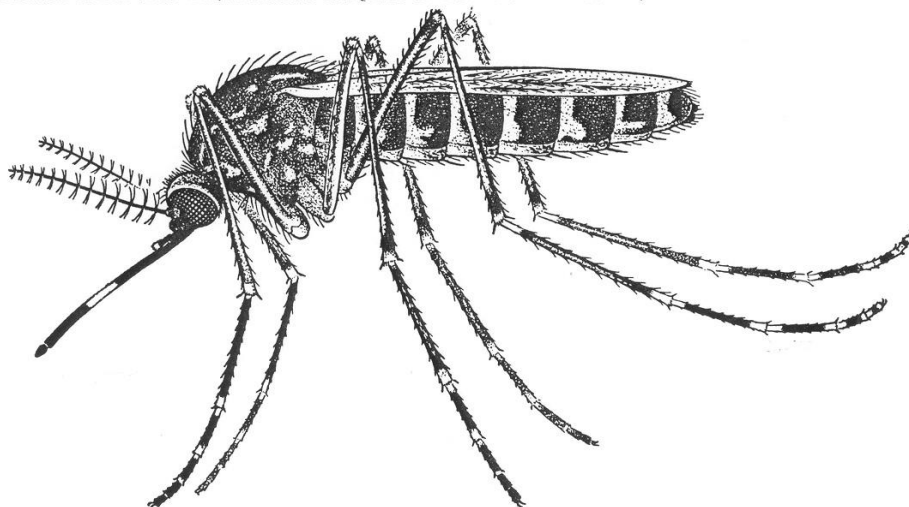


# MOSQUITO ADULT

## FEMALE *CULEX TARSALIS*, A COMMON MOSQUITO



1. Male mosquitoes do not bite, but feed on the nectar of flowers. Female *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes are painful and persistent biters, attacking at dusk and after dark, and readily entering dwellings for blood meals. Domestic and wild birds are preferred over humans, cows and horses.
2. *Culex tarsalis* is known to transmit encephalitis (sleeping sickness) to humans and horses, and is also a primary vector of West Nile virus.
3. *Culex tarsalis* is a weak flier and does not move far from home although it has been known to fly up to 10 miles.
4. *Culex tarsalis* live only a few weeks during the warm summer months. As winter approaches, the female mosquito finds a sheltered place where she hibernates until spring. Warm weather brings her out in search of water on which to lay her raft of eggs.

Note: *Anopheles* mosquitoes are similar in their habits, except they are the mosquito which can transmit malaria to people. Malaria has not been a significant problem in Napa County.

*Aedes* mosquitoes, which exist in Napa County, are also painful and persistent biters, but attack during the daylight and dusk hours (not at night). They do not readily enter dwellings, and they prefer to bite humans and animals. *Aedes* mosquitoes are strong fliers and are known to fly over 15 miles from their breeding sources in Napa County.