

Beneficial Species Profile



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Common Name: Scorpionflies

Scientific Name: *Panorpa sp.*

Order and Family: Mecoptera ; Panorpidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph		Looks similar to a caterpillar; has a hardened head, dorsal and lateral setae on a membranous body, 3 pair thoracic legs and 8 prolegs
Adult	9-25 mm	Elongated rostrum, or beak; yellow-brown in color, 2 pair spotted or blended wings held at a "V" shape at rest Female abdomen is tapered and has 2 small cerci whereas males have a scorpion-like appendage
Pupa (if applicable)		

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):

Chewing mouthparts

Host/s:

Adults feed on dead or dying insects, rarely can be found on fruit or eating nectar.

Larvae are scavengers. Diet primarily consists of decaying organic matter, dead insects, and sometimes soil dwelling insects.

Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.):

Predator / scavenger

Scorpionflies have also been observed feeding on fresh cadavers. Due to this, forensic scientists can use their early arrival for postmortem interval estimates.

References:

Scorpionflies and Caterpillars in Forensic Entomology. (1970, November 01). Retrieved November 14, 2020, from <https://www.entsoc.org/press-releases/scorpionflies-and-caterpillars-forensic-entomology>

Genus Panorpa. (n.d.). Retrieved November 14, 2020, from <https://bugguide.net/node/view/9217>