

Beneficial Species Profile



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Common Name: Tachinid Fly

Scientific Name: *Gymnosoma*, *Thrixion*, *Winthemia*, and *Eutachina* spp.

Order and Family: Diptera; Tachinidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	1mm	White, ellipses. Generally laid on and attached to the host with a glue-like substance.
Larva/Nymph	4-10mm	The first instar generally has spines along its back, and has a sharp labrum in order to enter its host. The second and third instars have mandibles instead.
Adult	2-20mm	Well-developed post scutellum. Most have dorsal bristles setting them apart from a common housefly. Range from bright yellow to jet black. Some are metallic.
Pupa (if applicable)	4-10mm	Puparium is cylindrical and has two darkened posterior spiracular disks for respiration.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Adults: Sponging- Sucking; Larvae: chewing.

Host/s: Immature beetles, butterflies, moths, sawflies, earwigs, grasshoppers, or true bugs.

Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.): The female tachinid fly lays its eggs in or near the hosts, typically herbivores. Used as a biological control for plant-eating pests.

References:

How to Manage Pests. Tachnid Flies (2014). Retrieved from http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/NE/tachinid_flies.html

O'Hara, J.E. (2008). Overview of the Tachinidae (Diptera). Retrieved from <http://www.nadsdiptera.org/Tach/AboutTachs/TachOverview.html>