

Beneficial Species Profile



Photo credit: Nicole Loomis, Bugguide.net

Common Name: Drone Fly, rat-tailed maggot

Scientific Name: *Eristalis tenax*

Order and Family: Diptera; Syrphidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	.5mm	White, long bodied, covered in a sticky substance
Larva/Nymph	1-3mm	Aquatic larva is cylindrical in shape, cream to dark brown with rat tail
Adult	22-26mm	15mm wingspan, looks like a bee from a distance with horizontal striping alternating black and yellow
Pupa (if applicable)	10-22mm	Long grey-brown, oval and retains long tail

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

Host/s: Can be a nuisance to livestock and cause myiasis in living hosts (e.g., humans)

Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.): Adults are pollinator of flowers, larvae are predators of aphids, scales, thrips, and caterpillars.

References:

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