

Pest Profile



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Common Name: Moth fly

Synonyms: Drain fly, filter fly, sewage fly

Scientific Name: *Psychoda spp.*

Order and Family: Diptera: Psychodidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		Brown to cream-colored.
Larva/Nymph	3-10mm	Nearly transparent and wormlike in appearance, eyeless and legless. Body lacks prolegs, head is darker and narrower than body.
Adult	1.5-4 mm	Very small hairy body, variably yellow through gray to black, very simple wing veins. At rest, wings in some species are held roof-like over the body.
Pupa (if applicable)		Resembles minute grain of brown rice.

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

Host plant/s: Stagnant water in drains, bathroom sinks, shower stalls, bacterial slime / high organic matter.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): The moth fly is a nuisance pest, especially when present in large numbers or when they land on people or fall into food. Where large development sites are present, flies can be so numerous that it can be difficult to talk without swallowing them.

References:

Jacobs, Steve. "Moth Flies in the Home (Department of Entomology)." *Department of Entomology (Penn State University)*. Pen State Extension, n.d. Web. Apr. 2016.
<<http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/moth-flies-in-the-home>>.