

## Beneficial Species Profile



Photo credit: Maggie Heumann, UNL

**Common Name:** Long-Legged Fly

**Scientific Name:** *Dolichopis* spp.

**Order and Family:** Diptera: Dolichopodidae

**Size and Appearance:** Immature is maggot like, white, and elongated. Adult is small in size, typically metallic in appearance. They have characteristically long legs, especially on the males, which are used in special “mating dances.” Males also have unusually inconspicuous genitalia folded under their abdominal segments.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		Extremely small and typically laid near water or moisture
Larva/Nymph	<9mm	Maggot-like; oblong and white, usually with abdominal breathing tubes
Adult	1-9mm	Small in size, typically metallic in appearance with a common fly appearance; Long legs, especially on the males, which

		are used in special “mating dances”; males also have unusually inconspicuous genitalia folded under their abdominal segments.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>	<b>1-9mm</b>	<b>Appendages from the last instar are glued to the body in soil nearby where the maggot was living</b>

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Chewing (hook-like) mouthparts in the maggot, piercing-sucking mouthparts with a proboscis in the adult.

**Host/s:** Maggots can be aquatic living in or near swamps, streams, woodland areas and meadows; adults are often found near flowering plants.

**Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.):** Larvae and adults are both predators of smaller insects including thrips, aphids, and mites.

**References:**

Borror, D. J., & White, R. E. (1970). *A field Guide to Insects of North America* (The Peterson Field Guide Series). New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Cranshaw, W., & Kondratieff, B. C. (2006). *Guide to Colorado Insects*. Englewood, CO: Westcliffe.

Milne, L. J., & Milne, M. J. (1980). *The Audubon Society field guide to North American insects and spiders*. New York: Knopf.

Triplehorn, C. A., Johnson, N. F., & Borror, D. J. (2005). *Borror and DeLong's introduction to the study of insects* (7th ed.). Belmont, CA: Thompson Brooks/Cole.

Williams, M. (2008, September/October). *Systematic Entomology Lecture*. Lecture presented at Auburn University, Auburn, AL.