

## Beneficial Species Profile



Photo credit: Maggie Heumann, UNL

**Common Name:** Hover Fly

**Scientific Name:** *Allograpta* spp.

**Order and Family:** Diptera: Syrphidae

**Size and Appearance:** Small and stout; resembles a bee, but only has one pair of wings. Bright black and yellow in color with a metallic wing hue. The abdomen has thick yellow bands. They have large compound eyes and a spurious vein (not connected to other veins on either end; “floating”) in their wings. In the adult, the proboscis is short and fleshy in appearance.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	.844mm	Long and white, similar to a grain of rice; laid individually
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	1-9mm	Small, maggot-like and grey/green in color
<b>Adult</b>	9-10mm	Small and stout; resembles a bee; One pair of wings; bright black and yellow in color with a metallic wing hue; abdomen has thick yellow bands; large

		<b>compound eyes and a spurious vein in their wings; proboscis is short and fleshy in appearance</b>
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>	<b>5.25mm x 2.5mm</b>	<b>Small, hard, brown in color and rice-shaped</b>

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Larvae have chewing mouthparts, adults have sponging/siphoning mouthparts.

**Host/s:** Larvae live on flowering plants and feed on aphids and soft bodied insects; adults tend to be found near flowers as well.

**Description of Benefits (predator, parasitoid, pollinator, etc.):** Larvae are a highly beneficial insectivore, eating aphids, thrips, scales, and other soft-bodied insects. Adults are pollinators.

**References:**

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