

Pest Profile



Photo credits: Left: Blackfly USDA -https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Black_Fly.png
 Center: Toby Hudson - https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Black_Fly_colony_Andrazza.jpg
 Right: Fritz Geller-Grimm - https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Simuliidae_fg01.jpg

Common Name: Black flies (no see-ums, turkey gnats, buffalo gnats, white socks)

Scientific Name: *Simulium species*

Order and Family: Diptera: Simuliidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	Microscopic, laid in or above water	
Larva/Nymph	0.1mm to 4 mm	Variable, turning to brown or black as it matures. Lives in clean rushing water, filter feeder. Clings to substrates with abdominal hooks.
Adult	2 - 5 mm	Small black flies, unobtrusive.
Pupa (if applicable)	2-5 mm	Aquatic, flies emerge underwater, ride air bubble to surface.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Piercing-sucking

Host/s: Warm blooded vertebrates

Description of Medical Importance (Nymphs and adults): Black flies are nuisance ectoparasites. Female adults feed on blood during daylight. Bites inject anticoagulants, they can be dangerous to humans and livestock under swarming conditions. In Central and South America and tropical Africa, black flies are vectors for the nematode *Onchocerca volvulus*, which causes onchocerciasis, or river blindness.

References:

["Black Fly"](#). Depweb.state.pa.us. Retrieved 08 April 2017.

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Black Flies