

Pest Profile



Photo credits: Left: Sean McCann - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/deadmike/185013210>
 Center: Botaurus - <https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tabanidae#/media/File:Haematopota-pluvialis-06-VII-2007-04.jpg>
 Right: Gail Hampshire - https://www.flickr.com/photos/gails_pictures/8449999105

Common Name: Horse flies, Deer Flies

Scientific Name: Genus *Tabanus*, *Chrysops*, *Hematopota*, *Hybromitra*, *Diachlorus* (there are hundreds of biting horse flies and deer flies) Pictured above are *Tabanus atratus*, *Hematopota pluvialis* and *Chrysops relictus*.

Order and Family: Diptera: Tabanidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	0.5 – 2 mm	White but darken with age. Laid near water often on water plants.
Larva/Nymph	1 – 30 mm	Aquatic or semiaquatic carnivorous larvae with abdominal siphon.
Adult	Body 6 – 30 mm, wingspan up to 60 mm	Wide head with large eyes, often iridescent and colored. Male’s head is almost all eyes. Wide body. Markings variable, wing markings variable.
Pupa (if applicable)	5 -25 mm	Brown, in soil

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Larvae chewing, adults cutting/piercing/lapping.

Host/s: Warm blooded animals, primarily mammals. Males and females feed on nectar.

Description of Damage (adults.): Females obtain blood meals for each clutch of eggs. Female tabanids have bladelike mouthparts and saw cuts into prey, lapping blood from the wound. Horse fly bites are extremely painful for up to a day. Some species are vectors for some blood-borne bacterial, viral, protozoan and worm diseases of mammals, such as the equine infectious anemia virus and various

species of *Trypanosoma*, which cause diseases in animals and humans . (Cheng 2012) Species of the genus *Chrysops* transmit the parasitic filarial worm *Loa Loa* between humans (Padgett 2008) and tabanids are known to transmit anthrax among cattle and sheep, and tularemia between rabbits and humans. (Padgett 2008).

References:

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Horse Flies