

## Public Health Pest Profile



*Phlebotomus papatasi* Photo credit: James Gathany, CDC

**Common Name:** Sandfly \* this name covers several genera within Phlebotominae and several dozen species across all subtropical and tropical continents.

**Scientific Name:** *Phlebotomus papatasi*

**Order and Family:** Diptera: Psychodidae (Phlebotominae)

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	0.3-0.5 mm	White
Larva/Nymph	Up-5 mm	Grey to black, feathery antennae, 4 caudal filaments scavenger/detritivore (Service 2012)
Adult	1.5-3.5 mm	Delicate, long legs, hairy appearance with hairy wings extended with 'V' shape at a 40° angle (Service 2012)
Pupa (if applicable)	1.5-3.5 mm	Brown to grey, fixed to substrate at abdominal end, upright with last instar skin attached.

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Larva: Chewing Adult: Sucking/siphoning

**Host/s:** Adults: plant saps and/or honeydew from aphids; females require vertebrate blood meal for egg production. Opportunistic nocturnal feeder, preys on a wide variety of mammals, birds and some reptiles.

**Description of Medical Importance (larvae and adults):** Adults are vectors for Leishmaniasis, a serious disease affecting 2 million people annually in sub-tropical and tropical areas. Causal organisms are 20+ species of *Leishmania*, a genus of parasitic protozoans (WHO).

Several sandfly species are vectors for viral diseases including pappataci fever, also called sandfly fever, phlebotomus fever or three-day fever (Brittanica 2002).

**References:**

Service, M. 2012. *Medical Entomology for Students*. Cambridge University Press. Leishmaniasis. *World Health Organization*. Retrieved 11 January 2017

Pappataci Fever, *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. 2002, April. Retrieved 11 January 2017 from <https://www.brittanica.com/science/pappataci-fever>

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***Phlebotomus papatasi***