

Pest Profile



Photo credit: By Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Common Name: Deer Fly

Scientific Name: *Chrysops* spp.

Order and Family: Diptera: Tabanidae

Size and Appearance: Adult members of the *Chrysops* genus are about 6-12 mm in length, dull black in color with darker regions on wings, spotted eyes, and spurs on the hind tibiae. Adults feature saw-like mouthparts that they use to cut the skin of a target mammal and then feed on the blood produced by infliction. Maggots are smooth, white, 1-10 mm in length, leg and eyeless, and have definite mouthparts used to eat decaying matter.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	1.0 mm in length	Oval-shaped white eggs are produced in masses of 100-1000. A jellylike cover is produced which helps mass stay together on rocks, leaves, and other debris covering water.
Larva/Nymph	1-10 mm in length depending on instar	White, cylindrical, definite mouthparts, legless, eyeless, 4-9 instars
Adult	6-12 mm long	Black in color with black coloration on wing cells, saw-like mouthparts, colored eyes, spurs on rear tibiae segment
Pupa (if applicable)	9-10 mm long	Pupal case is hardened, reddish-brown, and consists of last instar larval skin. Can be terrestrial or aquatic depending on species

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Tearing/lapping

Host /s: *Chrysops spp.* feed on decaying matter as maggots and nectar as an adult. Females require blood meals to produce eggs, and will readily bite most mammals.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Deer flies are mostly a nuisance pest as their bite is painful and can make venturing into wooded areas uncomfortable. However, *Crysops discalis* is a vector of tularemia which is transferred from rodents to higher mammals.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Blood Feeders- Deer and Horse Flies. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (3.8.1). National Pest Management Association International.

Townsend, L. (January, 2000). Horse Flies and Deer Flies. University of Kentucky, Department of Entomology. Retrieved on July 27th, 2016 from <https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef511>