

# Pest Profile



**Photo credit:** by Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska

**Common Name:** Drain Fly

**Scientific Name:** *Psychoda phalenoides*

**Order and Family:** Diptera: Pscychodidae

**Size and Appearance:** The adults are 1.5-5 mm in length, pale yellowish gray in color, and have delicate, fuzzy wings. Their antennae is 12- 16 segmented with distinctive hair-like covering at the ends. The wings are generally held over the body when not in flight. The larva of the species is 4-10 mm in length, white, rounded, and have no legs or eyes.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	< 0.05 mm in length	White, round, and usually near food source. Females can lay 30-100 eggs at a time in a gelatinous film in sinks, drain pipes, and related areas.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	1-10 mm in length depending on instar	Larvae are white, have a black head, and black spotting throughout. No legs or eyes.
<b>Adult</b>	1.5-5 mm in length	Yellowish gray, fuzzy wings, 12-16 segmented antennae with setae (hair) present.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>	10 mm long	Pupae will be on surface of drain pipes or organic matter and stage lasts 24-40 hours.

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Sponging

**Host /stored food products:** *Pschoda sp.* consume and reproduce in sewage, organic matter, and other materials found near drains.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Drain flies tend to be considered a nuisance pest, particularly when infestation level is high. Due to tendency to collect around drains, can lead to unsanitary conditions.

**References:**

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Non-biting Flies- Drain Fly. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (6.7.1). National Pest Management Association International.

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