

Pest Profile



Photo credit: by Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska

Common Name: Fungus Gnat

Scientific Name: *Sciara spp.*

Order and Family: Diptera: Sciaridae

Size and Appearance: The adults are 2-5 mm in length, vary in color from light gray to black, and have slender, mosquito-like long legs. Their wings are usually gray and can have patterns or spotting depending on species. The wings are generally held over the body when not in flight. The larvae are longer than adults, have 12 segments, and a dark head.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	< 0.05 mm in length	White, round, and laid on larval food source.
Larva/Nymph	0.5-7 mm in length depending on instar	Larvae are white, have a black head, 12-segmented body, and go through 5 distinct instars.
Adult	2-5 mm in length	Gray to Black in color, long legs and antennae, gray wings.
Pupa (if applicable)	6 mm long	Pupae will be on surface of larval food and are made of last larval skin.

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

Host /stored food products: *Sciaridae spp.* consume and reproduce near fungi and other decaying material.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Considered a nuisance pest, they are quite common in overwatered indoor potted plants that develop fungal growth. Infestations can be hard to get rid of if there is enough damp material to support feeding habits.

References:

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