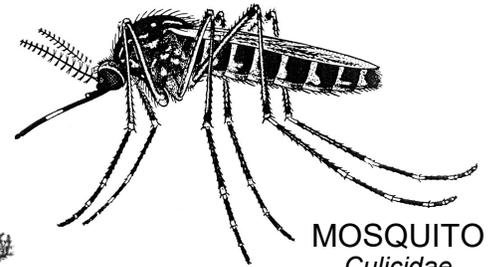




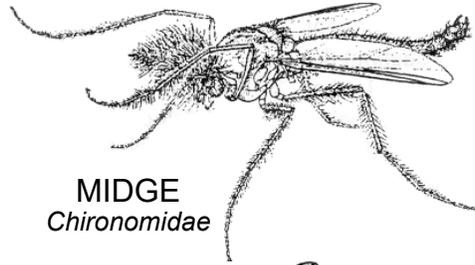
MOSQUITO-LIKE FLIES AND RELATIVES



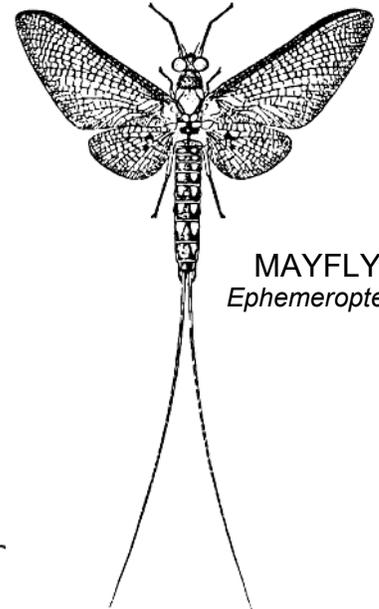
MOSQUITO
Culicidae



DIXA MIDGE
Dixidae



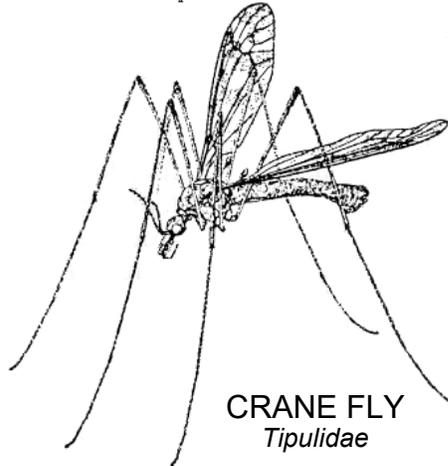
MIDGE
Chironomidae



MAYFLY
Ephemeroptera



FUNGUS GNAT
Mycetophilidae



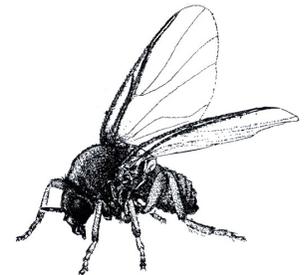
CRANE FLY
Tipulidae



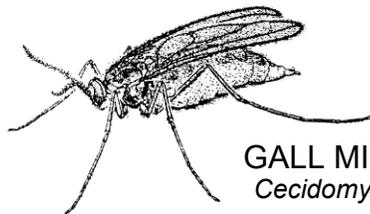
OWL MIDGE / MOTH FLY
Psychodidae



DANCE FLY
Empididae



BLACK FLY
Simuliidae
("bites")



GALL MIDGE
Cecidomyiidae

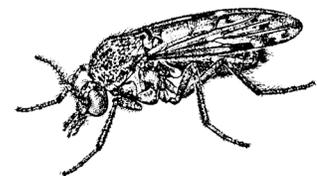
MOSQUITO and VECTOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

of Santa Barbara County

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BITING MIDGE / PUNKIE
Ceratopogonidae
("bites")



INSECTS RESEMBLING MOSQUITOES

NON-BITING INSECTS

Non-biting insects that resemble mosquitoes are present in the County at various times and places throughout the year. Most types are attracted to lights at night and are often seen around porches and patios. They resemble mosquitoes so closely that they are frequently reported to the District as being mosquitoes, even though none of them has bitten or attempted to feed on a person. These insects belong to several groups and come from a variety of breeding sources. Mosquitoes DO NOT “swarm” as do many of the following gnat-like insects.

Midges (*Chironomidae*):

These are the most widespread and numerous insects resembling mosquitoes in this area. When present, they are often seen swarming or “dancing” in the air, close to the ground, and at open porches. Periodically they will rest in large numbers on walls, screen, or buildings, particularly during the warmer part of the day. When present in large numbers, they can be annoying.

These gnats can be distinguished from mosquitoes by the absence of a biting “beak” or proboscis, and by the presence of two large feathery antennae on the head. The larvae develop in or near water, such as lakes, ponds, streams, and pools. They are often red and are frequently referred to as “blood worms.” Mass hatchings may occur and the spontaneous appearance of large numbers may cause concern.

Dixa Midges (*Dixidae*):

The larvae of these flies also live in water and have a characteristic U-shape. Adults are slightly smaller than mosquitoes and are often found in swarms at dusk. Adults live less than one week.

Mayflies (*Ephemeroptera*):

Mayflies are not true flies but belong to the order Ephemeroptera, which means “short lived.” Adult mayflies live one or two days and do not feed. The adults molt once, leaving their old cast skin on the wall surface where it was shed. They are easily recognized by a triangular wing and two or three thread-like tails. The larvae or nymphs live in water and are an important food for many freshwater fish. Eggs are laid on rocks or other objects in the water.

Moth Flies, Owl Midges (*Psychodidae*):

Adults are small to minute, hairy, with wings in a typical roof-like position when at rest. Adult Moth Flies are frequently seen around bathrooms, drains, and sewers where the larvae often develop.

Crane Flies (*Tipulidae*):

Adult Crane Flies are delicate insects and vary in size from 1/16 inch to as large as 1 1/2 inches. The larger Crane Flies are often referred to as “daddy long legs.” Some of the group resemble mosquitoes very closely, but adult Crane Flies cannot bite nor do they eat mosquitoes. Their larvae are actually beneficial as soil inhabitants that feed on decaying plant material.

Fungus Gnats (*Mycetophilidae*):

Adults are very common in urban areas and in shady, wooded areas. They resemble mosquitoes, but have hairy or spiny legs. Fungus Gnats are often seen running on window panes (mosquitoes cannot run). Larvae develop in damp soil with decaying vegetation, compost piles, and decaying wood.

Dance Flies (*Empididae*):

Somewhat gnat-like, Dance Flies receive their name from their mating “dance.” Swarms are found typically in open sunny places, often near water, and also around houses, shrubs, and fences at dusk. Individuals within the swarm move rapidly up and down, thus the name Dance Flies. Adults do not bite.

BITING FLIES

Though they are not mosquitoes, the following types of flies are also blood-feeding insects. They do not transmit any known diseases to humans in California.

Black Flies (*Simuliidae*):

Also called Buffalo Gnats or “no-see-ums,” Black Flies are very tiny blood-feeding insects that resemble a “flea with wings.” The larvae develop only in *flowing* water. (Mosquito larvae live only in standing water.)

Biting Midges, Punkies (*Ceratopogonidae*):

These very minute blood-feeding insects are sometimes also called “no-see-ums.” Weak fliers, they rarely travel far from breeding sites. Larvae develop in wet soil along lake, pond, river, and stream shores, or in other moist habitats.

See illustrations on reverse side of page.