



Community Memo from the Rancho Murieta Community Services District

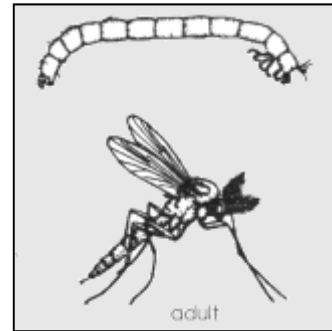
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MIDGE FLIES

Midge flies have been reported frequently as a nuisance by the residents around Laguna Joaquin and surrounding areas. These midges are commonly known as “blind mosquitoes” because they are mosquito-like but do not bite.

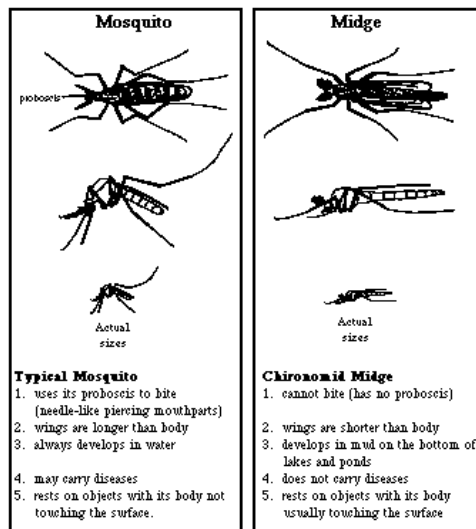
Where homes are constructed adjacent to lakes and ponds, adult midges often emerge in extremely large numbers, causing a variety of nuisance and other problems for people who reside within the flight range of these insects. Adults are weak flyers and may fly or be blown ashore where they congregate on vegetation, under porch alcoves, in carports and on walls of homes and other buildings. Swarms of adults may be so dense that they interfere with outdoor activities and stain walls, cars and other surfaces upon which they rest. Adults are attracted to lights, “bug zappers” and may accumulate in large numbers on window screens and around porch and street lights. The occurrence of midges promotes the growth of spiders whose unsightly webs may have to be removed frequently.



Minimizing the use of outside lights will help to reduce their presence near your home. Should you choose to use a “Bug Zapper”, keep it as far away from your residence as possible to maximize its effectiveness. The use of pesticides is not recommended as a strong water hose is usually sufficient to knock down and wash away most midges that collect in areas around homes and pesticides tend to cause more harm to the users and environment than help. These insects pose no direct threat to pets or people.

After discussions on whether or not to treat for midge flies, the District’s Board decided take action for the community around Laguna Joaquin and provide periodic treatments to control the midge flies. Four (4) treatments are budgeted for each year. The District applies an environmentally safe product to help control the midge flies during the warmer months when they become active. Despite the treatments, some complaints are still received, although some calls are received after treatments saying that they have made conditions improve.

Comparing Midges to Mosquitoes



Life Cycle of Midge Fly

