







Guide to Important Mosquitoes in California

Species	Common Name	Breeding Sources	Diseases	Bites	Description	Image
<i>Culex tarsalis</i>	western encephalitis mosquito	Ponds, vegetated pools, and agricultural areas	West Nile virus (mostly affects birds, humans, and horses), St. Louis encephalitis virus (humans), and Western equine encephalitis virus (humans and horses)	Dawn, dusk, and after dark	Light brown, with a light-colored band around its proboscis	 <p style="font-size: small; text-align: right;">Content Provider: CDC Photo Credit: James Gathany, 2005</p>
<i>Culex pipiens/ Culex quinquefasciatus</i>	northern/southern house mosquito	Ponds, drains, underground, foul water, and artificial containers	West Nile virus (mostly affects birds, humans, and horses), St. Louis encephalitis virus (humans)	Dawn, dusk, and after dark	Brown, with dark-scaled unbanded legs and an unbanded proboscis	 <p style="font-size: small; text-align: right;">Content Provider: CDC/William Brogdon Photo Credit: James Gathany, 2001</p>
<i>Aedes aegypti</i>	yellow fever mosquito	Standing water in containers; even as small as a bottle cap; thrives in urban areas	Zika, dengue, chikungunya, and yellow fever viruses	Daytime, and near dawn and dusk	Dark brown, with two white stripes in the shape of a lyre on its back; white bands on legs	 <p style="font-size: small; text-align: right;">Photo Credit: João P. Burini, 2011</p>
<i>Aedes albopictus</i>	Asian tiger mosquito	Standing water in containers; even as small as a bottle cap; thrives in urban areas	Zika, dengue, chikungunya, and yellow fever viruses	Daytime, and near dawn and dusk	Black, with one white "racing" stripe on its thorax; white bands on legs	 <p style="font-size: small; text-align: right;">Photo Credit: Kevin Stohlgren, 2015</p>
<i>Aedes sierrensis</i>	western tree-hole mosquito	Tree holes, tires, and other containers	Dog heartworm (parasite transmitted to dogs and occasionally cats)	Daytime and dusk	Dark brown, with white bands on legs	 <p style="font-size: small; text-align: right;">Photo Credit: R. Berg, www.bugguide.net</p>
<i>Anopheles freeborni</i>	western malaria mosquito	Vegetated pools, algal mats, and agricultural areas	Malaria (about 30-40 species worldwide transmit malaria)	Dawn, dusk, and after dark	Light brown, with dashed black marks on wings; typically rests with abdomen pointed up	 <p style="font-size: small; text-align: right;">Content Provider: CDC Photo Credit: Yasser, 2008</p>