



# *Toxorhynchites rutilus septentrionalis* Biology

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*Toxorhynchites rutilus septentrionalis* larvae are found principally in rot cavities of trees of many kinds and occasionally in water in artificial containers such as rain barrels, wooden tubs, tin buckets and cans, stone and glass jars, and in tires. The larvae are predacious, feeding on mosquito larvae and other small aquatic animals. Interestingly, *Toxorhynchites* larvae will not attack anything that is not moving. The larvae are frequently associated with the immature stages of other container species in the county. The larval period is quite long, usually requiring several weeks, but has been observed to last as long as 6 months. The pupal stage is usually 4 to 7 days, but has been known to last 23 days. This mosquito can be easily collected from May through October in Brunswick County.

*Tx. rutilus septentrionalis* adults are among the largest and most colorful mosquitoes found in Brunswick County. They are about the size of a quarter and metallic green in color. The males and females fly by day and feed on the nectar of flowers and other plant juices. They do not bite humans. The adults have been observed resting on vines and tree trunks, often in the sunlight, near the habitats of their immature stages. We consider this mosquito to be of low importance to the citizens of Brunswick County.

## REFERENCE

Carpenter, S. J. and W. J. LaCasse. 1955. Mosquitoes of North America (North of Mexico), University of California Press, Berkeley. 360 pp., 127 pl.