



Aedes vexans Biology

By Rick Hickman and Jeff Brown
Brunswick County Mosquito Control

Aedes vexans is Brunswick's most abundant fresh water mosquito. They are found in temporary rain-filled pools and pools formed by floodwater. The larvae are frequently found in irrigation seepage water. She lays her eggs on at the receding waterline on leaves, twigs and soil of temporary rain pools, woodland pools or floodplains. This makes her what is termed a "**flood water**" species. The eggs after a period of drying will hatch into larvae after a rainfall floods the eggs. The larval cycle takes 7-10 days depending on the temperature of the water and time of year.

Adult emergence continues throughout the year in Brunswick County. *Ae. vexans* has multiple generations each year. It is generally abundant and a troublesome biter wherever it occurs. The females will feed in shady places during the day and can be particularly annoying at dusk and after dark. The adults are known to migrate long distances from their breeding places. She has a flight range of 5 to 8 miles.

She is more adapted to the cool temperatures of spring and fall than to the heat of summer in the county. She is a painful biter, she isn't shy at all, and one year caused problems in Brunswick County until the Christmas Holiday Season.

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.