



Ochlerotatus atlanticus/tormentor Biology

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Ochlerotatus atlanticus/tormentor is really two separate mosquitoes, *Oc. atlanticus* and *Oc. tormentor*. The larvae of these mosquitoes are easily separated and identified. The larvae are found in freshwater temporary pools in open fields and in woodland pools, and in clear shallow pools with grass and other types of vegetation. The larvae have been found from March to November in Brunswick County.

Adult *Ochlerotatus atlanticus/tormentor* cannot be differentiated using current mosquito identification keys. The adult females are persistent biters and are often associated with *Oc. infirmatus* and other woodland species following summer and fall rains. The females bite readily and severely during daylight hours in wooded areas. Typically this mosquito can be collected from June through November in Brunswick County. If weather conditions are favorable in the fall months, especially during hurricane season, populations of this mosquito can get out of hand very quickly.

Oc. atlanticus/tormentor is a woodland species that prefers to stay in the woods most of the time. She is what is termed a "crepuscular" biter. This means they are most active during the hours of sunrise and sunset. When they are disturbed while resting in the tree line they will readily attack whatever is moving. Mosquito landing rates of 40 to 80 mosquitoes per minute are not unheard of. Citizens living in the wooded areas of the county are at the greatest risk of being bitten by this mosquito. *Oc. atlanticus/tormentor* was the most abundant floodwater mosquito collected after hurricane Floyd in 1999. We consider this mosquito to be of high 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.