



Psorophora howardii Biology

By Rick Hickman and Jeff Brown
Brunswick County Mosquito Control

Psorophora howardii larvae occur mostly in unshaded or partly shaded temporary rain-filled pools and are predacious, feeding on the larvae of other mosquitoes with which they are associated. The larvae are predacious, commonly feeding on other mosquito larvae, with which they may be associated in their aquatic habitats, *Oc. atlanticus/tormentor* for example. The larvae occur from March to October in Brunswick County.

The females are persistent biters, rivaling *Psorophora ciliata* in this respect. The adults are usually found near their larval habitats and will attack any time during the day when their haunts are invaded. This is one of Brunswick County's largest mosquitoes. Typically they are about the size of a quarter. This mosquito is sometimes called the "gallinipper". It is not uncommon to see large numbers of these mosquitoes in a post hurricane situation. We consider this mosquito to be of medium 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.