

# Culex Mosquitoes



*Salinarius*

*Restuans*

*Pipiens*

*Erraticus*

*Territans*

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# Genus: *Culex*

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- Brown
- Rounded Abdomen
- No banding on the legs
- No banding on proboscis
- Varying degrees of banding on the abdomen

# *Culex salinarius*

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- Very common
- Collected mainly in CDC light traps
- Breed in fresh/brackish water. Larvae are difficult to collect.
- Indiscriminate feeder
- Vector of West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis

# *Culex salinarius*

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- ❑ Overall coloring is very orange/gold



# *Culex salinarius*

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- ❑ Banding on abdomen is indistinct, incomplete
- ❑ Last abdominal segment is covered in gold scales





# *Culex restuans*

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- ❑ Common
- ❑ Cooler weather: Spring and Fall
- ❑ Collect large numbers in gravid traps, found frequently in CDC light traps. Specimens from gravid traps will appear bloated.
- ❑ Breed in water with heavy organic material, pollution, artificial containers; i.e. ditches, buckets, storm drains.
- ❑ Feed mainly on birds.

# *Culex restuans*

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- ❑ Yellow brown body
- ❑ **White/Off White** abdominal banding.
- ❑ Bands are straight and uniform.
- ❑ Gravid females may have a green colored abdomen





# *Culex restuans*

- Two small dots on top of thorax. Rubs off easily so not always present.



Insects of Wisconsin  
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# *Culex pipiens*

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- ❑ Shares habitat with *Cx. restuans*
- ❑ Major vector of West Nile virus, can also carry EEE
- ❑ Best collected using gravid traps, can also be found in CDC light traps.
- ❑ Consensus in the mosquito biologist community that *Cx. pipiens* and *Cx. restuans* can be indistinguishable during the summer months.

# *Culex pipiens*

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- Yellowy-brown body
- Banding on abdomen is half-moon, or “m”-shaped.
- No spots on top of thorax



Dorsal/top view

# *Culex pipiens*

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# *Culex erraticus*

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- ❑ Collected mainly in CDC traps
- ❑ Breeds in the shallows of ponds, lakes, and streams.
- ❑ Can be found in large numbers
- ❑ Frequently has mites attached to body.
- ❑ Small
- ❑ Deep chocolate brown
- ❑ Banding is incomplete and mainly on the underside of the abdomen.
- ❑ Banding is bright white.

# *Culex erraticus*

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# *Culex territans*

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- ❑ Small
- ❑ Seen in small numbers
- ❑ Can be collected in CDC light traps and gravid traps.
- ❑ **Apical banding on the abdomen**
- ❑ Bands are wider on the sides than on top, giving it a triangle shape when viewed from the side.

Abdomen - Side view



# *Culex territans*

