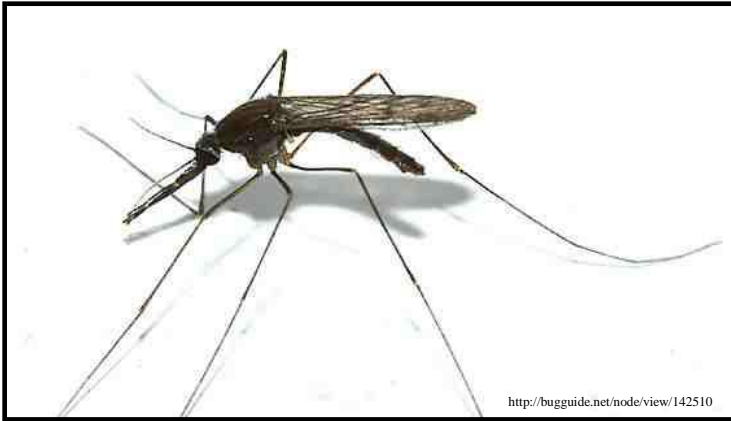




MOSQUITO FACT SHEET: *Anopheles walkeri*



Physical Characteristics:

Adult female mosquitoes have a medium or average sized body with fairly long legs. Body scales give the mosquito a very dark, near black, coloration. The wings are characteristically marked with four distinct patches of dark scales, giving them an appearance of having four “spots”. The maxillary palps have white bands at the apex of each segment. The halteres have “golden” brown scales.

Biology:

Larvae emerge in the spring from overwintering eggs. The first adults tend to appear in mid to late May and persist with multiple generations throughout the entire mosquito season. Eggs are laid singly, and float, on the surface of fresh-water marshes containing emergent vegetation. Larvae lack an “air tube” or siphon, causing them to rest in a position parallel to the surface of the water. They are prone to diving down quickly in water when disturbed. Adult flight range can be 1-2 miles per night.

Host preferences:

Anopheles walkeri females feed at dusk and dawn on a variety of mammalian hosts, including humans. They have been known to seek blood meals in temperatures as low as 50°F.

Medical Importance:

Anopheles walkeri have the potential to be vectors of parasites that cause malaria: *Plasmodium* spp. Laboratory studies have confirmed successful transmission of the disease and field collected mosquitoes have been found to contain infectious developmental stages of the parasite.