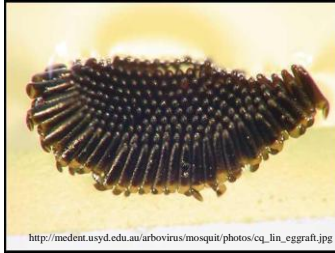




## MOSQUITO FACT SHEET: *Coquillettidia perturbans* (The Cattail Mosquito)



### **Physical Characteristics:**

Adult female mosquitoes are fairly large and “robust”. They are characterized by a very distinct speckled “salt and pepper” appearance to their broad triangular shaped wing scales. The legs have pronounced white banding on each segment with a median white band on the first tarsal segment. The middle of the proboscis also has a band of pale scales.

### **Biology:**

This species of mosquito overwinters in the larval stage of its development in permanent and semi-permanent bodies of water with vegetation, such as cattails. The larvae have a modified “air tube” or siphon that is adapted for piercing and attaching to submerged vegetation for a source of air: meaning it does not need to rest at the water surface to obtain oxygen. Eggs are laid in masses or rafts on the water surface. Adults begin to emerge from the overwintering larvae and subsequent pupae in mid June and persist through early September. They typically only have one generation of adults per season. Adults are very strong fliers, with a range of five miles per night.

### **Host preferences:**

*Coquillettidia perturbans* are opportunistic indiscriminate feeders that will readily feed on both birds and mammals, including humans, during the night or day.

### **Medical Importance:**

*Coquillettidia perturbans* is the primary bridge vector for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). This is known to be the mosquito primarily responsible for transmitting the EEE virus from the sylvatic cycle of *Culiseta melanura* mosquitoes and birds to dead-end hosts such as humans and horses.