Southern House Mosquito

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**Culex quinquefasciatus Say**

**Origin**
Entered Hawaii at the port of Lahaina, Maui, between 1826 and 1830.

**Range**
Found on all of the major Hawaiian Islands. Prefers to breed in dirty water and ranges from sea level to about 2000 ft elevation.

**Public health concern**
Bites people at night; a potential vector of West Nile virus, Japanese B-type encephalitis, and filariasis.

**Livestock concern**
This mosquito is a vector of heartworm in dogs, fowl pox in chickens, avian malaria in native Hawaiian birds, equine encephalitis in horses, and West Nile virus in horses and birds.

**Hosts**
Takes blood meals from man, birds, and animals in order to complete its life cycle.

**Description**
Adult less than ¾ inch long.
Adults are brown with narrow cross bands on the abdomen; they have no white bands on the legs and their abdomen is blunt at the tip.
Larvae are recognized by their long breathing tubes and whip-like tail movements when disturbed.

**Life cycle**
Growth stages: egg, larval, and pupal stages in the water; adult stage flies.
Up to 400 eggs laid in rafts of that float on the surface.
Eggs hatch in 1–2 days; the larval and pupal stages take 8–10 days to complete.
Adults live from two weeks to two months.

**Control**
Eliminate or empty containers were mosquitoes breed. Change water in troughs and water dishes regularly. In permanent water sites, apply a product containing *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* to control mosquito breeding.
Protect your animals against mosquito borne diseases by administering treatments prescribed by a veterinarian.

**References**
Photos from www.arbovirus.health.nsw.gov.au, Dept. of Medical Entomology, New South Wales Dept. of Health, used with permission.