

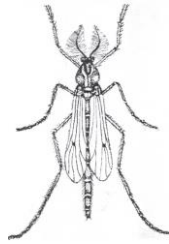
# Vector Information Sheet

## MISTAKEN IDENTITIES

There are certain insects that are commonly mistaken for mosquitoes by the public. Our District has received quite a number of complaint calls that turn out to be about insects other than mosquitoes.

### Non-biting Midges

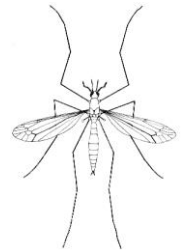
The non-biting midges (*Chironomidae*) are small flies that closely resemble mosquitoes. Despite not being able to pierce the skin, midges can be a serious nuisance problem in urban areas, particularly along lake front communities. During peak emergence, massive swarms of these midges can cover houses, cars, and other structures nearby the lakes or ponds and other water sources that serve as breeding habitats. Adult chironomid midges are short-lived and weak flyers, largely found around country club lakes.



attack man in many parts of the United States, particularly the South and West. The bite usually produces a temporary swelling that may become vesicular, rupture and produce an open lesion that may exude moisture for weeks. In the past, after a heavy rain, the District received complaints from near the lower mountain range on the north/west side of the Valley indicating their presence in the Valley.

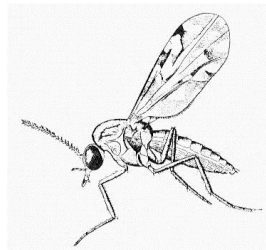
### Crane Fly

The crane flies (*Tipulidae*) are much larger than mosquitoes reaching body sizes of 1 to 2 inches in length. Most species are tan colored and are weak flyers. The larvae live in moist soil, muddy water or decomposing material. The adult flies are unable to bite, and they do not have medical or economic importance.



### Biting Midges

The biting midges or “no-see-ums” (*Culicoides*) are very small, grayish colored flies about the size of an ordinary pinhead. These flies feed on blood and produce very painful, burning bites. The larvae are aquatic or semiaquatic, including fresh or salt water, tree holes, decaying plant materials, sandy and alkaline soils. Certain species, such as *Lepotconops torrens* (Townsend), severely



### Fungus Gnats

The fungus gnats (*Mycetophilidae*) are slender, mosquito-like insects with long legs. They are usually found in damp places where there is ample decaying vegetation (leaf and grass piles). The adult gnats are relatively abundant, flying in the shade in wooded areas. The gnats are active at dusk and at night, and are attracted to light. The adult fungus gnat does not bite.

