

## HOST-SEEKING ACTIVITY OF MOSQUITOES IN CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS - 2009

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### ABSTRACT

For a second year, the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project evaluated various time periods for ultra-low volume adulticiding potential by conducting mosquito surveillance using programmable collection devices to observe the host-seeking activity periods for local mosquito species. Collections were made in several habitats for three hour intervals around sunset, with two collections being made before sunset, with another four afterwards. The specimens collected were later identified into several target groups including *Aedes vexans*, *Coquillettidia perturbans*, *Culex pipiens/restuans* complex, *Culiseta melanura*, *Ochlerotatus canadensis*, *Psorophora ferox*, and an *Anopheles* group which included *Anopheles punctipennis* and *Anopheles quadrimaculatus*. Besides *Oc. canadensis* and *Ps. ferox*, all species showed relatively little activity until the period right before sunset. Sunset was then followed by the largest activity period for all targeted mosquito groups except *Oc. canadensis* and *Ps. ferox*. Most species began to taper off for the rest of the collection period, except for *Oc. canadensis*, *Ps. ferox* and the *Anopheles* group which had a slight resurgence in the early morning hours. This season the Norfolk County Mosquito Control Project also collected data for this project. These findings reinforce the adulticiding protocol for CMMCP, which is to commence applications following sunset. Collections may be continued in the upcoming season with or without NCMCP, and will possibly include canopy traps, to further investigate this topic of host-seeking activity.