

## HOST-SEEKING ACTIVITY OF MOSQUITOES IN CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

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### ABSTRACT

In evaluating various time periods for ULV adulticiding potential, the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project conducted mosquito surveillance used programmable collection devices to observe the host-seeking activity periods for local mosquito species. Collections were made in multiple environments for 3 hour intervals around sunset, with that being the point of reference. Three collections were made before sunset, with another four afterwards. The collections were identified into several target groups including *Coquillettidia perturbans*, *Aedes vexans*, *Culex pipiens/restuans* complex, *Culiseta melanura*, and an *Anopheles* group which included *Anopheles punctipennis* and *Anopheles quadrimaculatus*. 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. Most species began to taper off for the rest of the collection period, except for *Coquillettidia perturbans* and the *Anopheles* group which had a slight resurgence in the early morning hours. These preliminary findings reinforce the adulticiding protocol for CMMCP, which is to commence applications following sunset. Collections may be continued in upcoming seasons to determine if these results can be further established.