



October, 2022

The Valley Buzz



TECHNICIAN'S TIPS:

Mosquito Torpedo?

The world is stranger than science fiction at times, especially in the insect world. A great example of this is a recent discovery by Robert Hancock, et al. who published an article in the Entomological Society of America. They discovered that *Toxorhynchites amboinensis* and *Psorophor ciliata*, two species of mosquitoes whose larvae eat other mosquito larvae, actually shoot their heads towards their prey! Blasting their head capsules out at other larvae, snatching them in sharp jaws, and retracting back to gulp down dinner is both terrifying and utterly fascinating! I know this story seems like a "stretch" but it's totally true and you can learn more here!

<https://doi.org/10.1093/aesa/saac017>

Supp. Video 10 - *Psorophor ciliata* strike: L4 *Psorophora* on L4 *Aedes*, 340 frames per second (playback slowed to 50%), .75x



A picture extracted from a video of the predatory behavior, Hancock et al.

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FROM OUR LABORATORY:

Trick or Treat, They'll Bite Your Feet!

Although temperatures are decreasing, signaling for mosquitoes to pack it in for the winter, there is still enough activity that wearing a repellent while trick or treating is a good idea. Halloween sends our "boys n ghouls" out into neighborhoods during that prime time for mosquitoes searching for a bloodmeal.

Crosses and garlic won't repel these bloodsuckers, but a water-based repellent, like those containing picaridin, can be applied to clothing and costumes and won't stain. Also, since these critters reproduce faster than a wet mogwai eating Fritos after midnight, be sure to scrub out and dump any containers with standing water. Let's all have a safe and fun Halloween without being annoyed by those "tiny vampires"!



OUTREACHING OUT TO YOU!

Bizarre Love Potion!

It is believed that the female Vampire Jumping Spider, *Evarcha culicivora*, found in Lake Victoria, Kenya and Uganda has a peculiar prerequisite for choosing the right man - they must smell like human blood! The male spiders have an even more peculiar way of obtaining the bloody aphrodisiac, they hunt mosquitoes that have bloodfed on people! The spiders are able to discern between other flies and mosquitoes, between male and female mosquitoes, and female mosquitoes that are engorged with blood. Female spiders seem to be attracted to the boys with a stronger smell, so the males must feed frequently on the mosquitoes; the more "bloodthirsty" the better!

I am a fan of anything that takes out mosquitoes, I only wish they would get them before we had to suffer the unwilling blood donation and accompanying itch!

The enemy of my enemy is a friend? Even if your answer is no, these spiders seem to be a skeeters worst nightmare!



extracted from twitter: <https://twitter.com/infravec2/status/1012621117167632384>

While we face many challenges in public health, we are confident that with your continued support, cooperation, and friendship, we can continue to protect our residents in this vast and ever-changing landscape.

Thank you for supporting us over the years!

Contact Us
Phone: 909-635-0307
Email: adminemail@wvmvcd.org
Website: wvmvcd.org

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