

hornworm tachinid fly

Archytas apicifer

FEATURES

Also known as the white face fly, this species is about 0.40 to 0.60 inches in length. Its head and thorax are much lighter in color than the dark, shiny abdomen. There are large bristles on the body.

BEHAVIORS

The adults eat flower nectar and act as pollinators. The female lays her eggs on forest tent caterpillars (*Malacosoma disstria*), fall webworms (*Hyphantria cunea*), corn earworms (*Helicoverpa zea*) and cutworms. The egg hatches to a larva that burrows into the living moth larva, eating it and eventually killing it.

TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Arthropoda
Class: Insecta
Order: Diptera
Family: Tachinidae

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

ILLINOIS RANGE





adult



close-up of abdomen

adult



adult





adult

close-up of face

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests; swamps

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; edge; shrub prairie