# hornworm tachinid fly Archytas apicifer

Kingdom: Animalia Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Insecta Order: Diptera Family: Tachinidae

### **ILLINOIS STATUS**

common, native

#### **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.

### **ILLINOIS RANGE**





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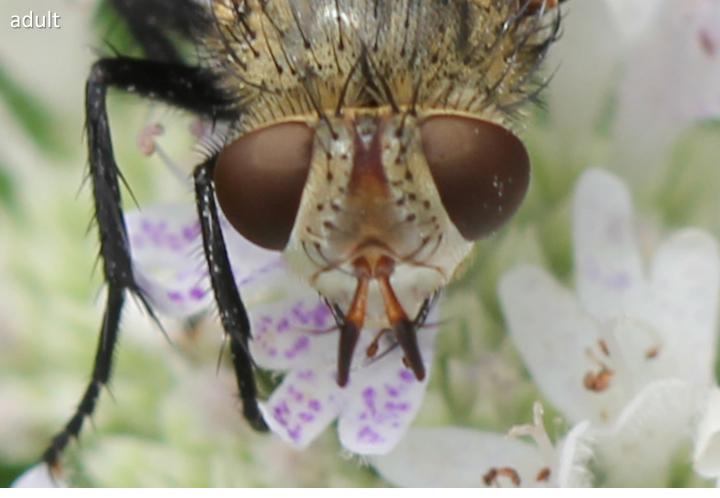




close-up of abdomen







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