

hornworm tachinid fly *Archytas apicifer*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/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 in to the living moth larva, eating it and eventually killing it.

HABITATS

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

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