

# Potpourri

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# Fly group

At first glance these looked like Drone Flies, *Eristalis tenax*, but the white bands and three nearly completely black segments on the abdomen suggest otherwise. A photo of a fly's butt may seem a little weird, but it does show off the pair of vestigial wings well.



This is perhaps another Flower Fly in the *Eristalis* genus





This is a real odd fly with fringes on the hind legs like a cowboy and dark wings often held like Dracula's cape.





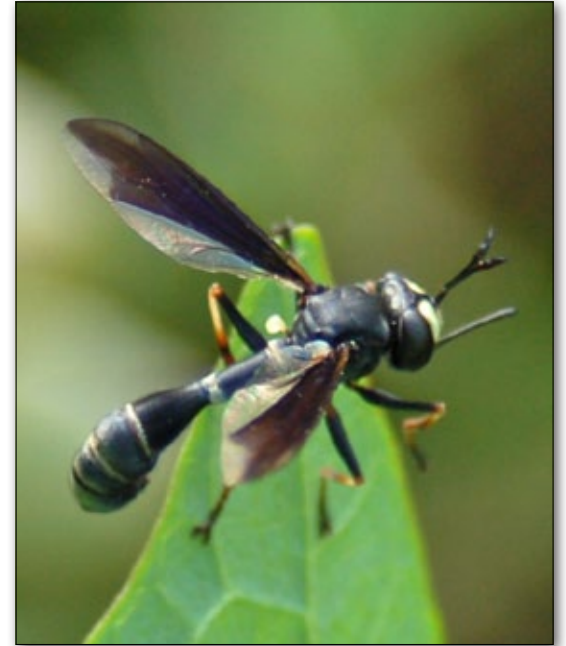
This frequently seen robber fly species is probably *Dioctria hyalipennis*, an non-native from Europe. It preys on small insects including wasps.





This similar fly species has an all black abdomen with a more uniform diameter. It appears to be a Common Red-legged Robber Fly, *Dioctria rufipes*.





I was a little surprised when I first saw this fly species, but soon discovered they weren't that unusual in our garden. It is undoubtedly a Thick-headed Fly, *Physocephala tibialis*. They wiggle their small white wing-like appendages around quite a lot.





This metallic gold fly has very dark red eyes. The eyes of the male touch at one point. Those of the female do not. Hardly unique but not common.





This small green fly is very shiny. Hardly unique but not common.



This appears to be a Condylostylid Long-legged Fly from the *Condylostylus* genus. Apparently only an expert can tell the individual species apart. All were green earlier in the season, but recently a few reddish ones like this one have been seen. Note the dark wing markings.



I refer to these as hairy butt flies. The bluish abdomen and largely light face are typical. They may be Tachinid flies in the *Archytas* genus.



This medium sized fly may be a Tachinid Fly.



This is a Green Bottle Fly, *Phaenicia sericata*. Individuals were exclusively green early in the season, but as temperatures increased many are now golden like this one.



This unusual fly with a banded abdomen appears to be covered with short hairs.





Here are three different fly species with black and gray mottled abdomens. One has hardly any hairs, a second has a hairy thorax, and the third has a hairy thorax and abdomen.

Because most traditional insect guides are based on microscopic examination of dead insects, they are not as useful in identifying photos of live specimens.



These represent two more hairy fly species. The apparent collar between the head and the thorax of the upper one is very unusual. The wings of the lower one have a golden tint and the eyes are brick red.



This unusual fly is covered with short hairs and the eyes are exceptionally small.



Predominantly black flies are very unusual. The eyes of this one appear to be a dark green.



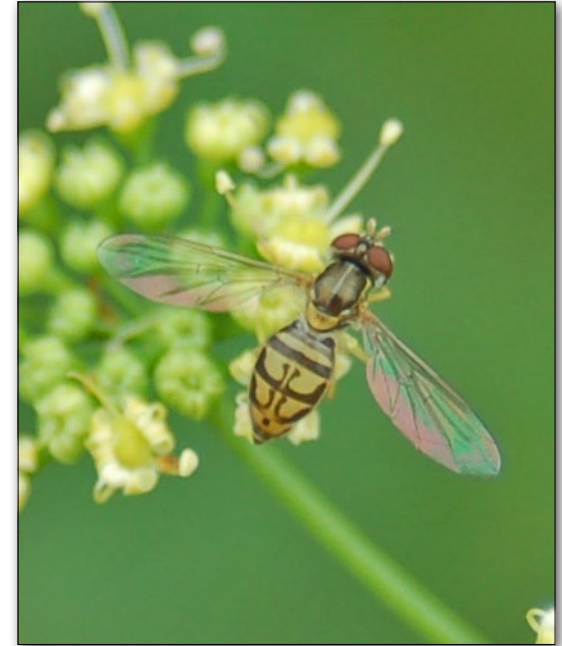
This fly has a different head and abdomen shape. It may be a flesh fly in the *Sarcophoridae* family. They are usually attracted by decaying material including carrion.



The unusual colors on this fly include a rose-red head, olive green body, and orange-brown tinted wings. The eyes are small and lenticular in shape.







This is a common hover fly species. The post scutellum is mostly yellow, the thorax has one light stripe rather than three, and the predominant abdominal pattern includes a pair of black “U” shapes with a centered dot below them. It is probably *Toxomerus marginatus* which appears earlier than other similar species.





Another common hover fly species is this one. Note the yellow edged bronze thorax, the bright blue spot on the top of the head, and the peak-omega-peak pattern on three abdominal segments. The blue spot was not prominent on one individual. It appears to be *Toxomerus geminatus*. *Toxomerus occidentalis* is similar, but found out West. Hover flies have two wing positions when resting. More photos appear on the next page. Note that there are many species in this genus. More photos on next page.





One of the more unusual hover flies is this one with off-white rather than yellow markings, a primarily white post scutellum, and a distinctive OIIO pattern on about the third abdominal segment.

