

Don't be fooled by spring bug look-alikes

The warm, wet weather has caused infestations of spring bugs that are often mistaken for mosquitoes.

The City and the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District have received dozens of worried calls from residents regarding daytime sightings of insects wrongly believed to be mosquitoes.

In all cases, the insects have turned out to be spring bugs, such as the ones below. These insects look like mosquitoes but are active during daylight. They are also harmless and do not bite or carry the West Nile virus.

Recognizing these spring bug look-alikes can help reduce stress levels as you work to protect yourself against the real enemy, so here's a closer look at the insects most commonly mistaken for mosquitoes:

Crane Fly

- Much larger than a mosquito
- Cannot bite
- Does not eat mosquitoes
- Develops in moist soil or water
- A problem from early spring to fall



Midge Gnat

- About the same size as a mosquito
- Cannot bite
- Develops in mud on bottom of lakes, ponds, spreading basins and flood control channels
- A problem from spring to fall

Fungus Gnat

- About the same size as a mosquito
- Cannot bite
- Develops in fungus or moist decaying vegetation
- A problem from winter to spring

