

# SHORE FLIES<sup>5</sup>

## Damage symptoms

Rather than causing damage directly to plants, shore flies transmit fungal diseases around the greenhouse and are a nuisance because they fly around plants. Larvae feed on decayed plant matter and algae.

## Plants commonly attacked

They are found in greenhouses in damp areas where algae grow.

## General characteristics

**Mouthparts:** Chewing (larvae)

Shore flies in the genus *Scatella* are small ( $\frac{1}{12}$ <sup>th</sup> inch), black flies with reddish eyes and gray wings with clear spots.

## Where to find shore flies

They usually are found swarming in moist areas where a mat of algae is growing. They are caught on sticky cards, and should be distinguished from fungus gnats, which definitely injure plants.

## Management

- ✓ Monitor populations on sticky cards.
- ✓ Eliminate leaks that produce wet areas.
- ✓ Treat floors and benches to eliminate algae.



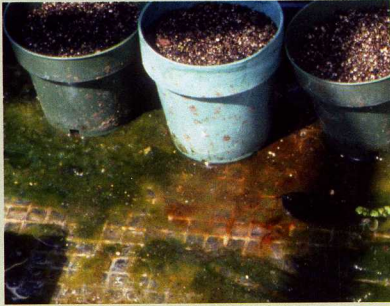
*Adult shore flies, note the dark body and white spots on the wings.*

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<sup>5</sup>*Scatella stagnalis* [Diptera: Ephydriidae].



*Shore fly larva with yellowish body. Note that it lacks the black head capsule found on fungus gnats.*



*Flower pots on a greenhouse bench covered with algae.*



*Standing water on greenhouse floor. Algal growth on floors and walls are ideal breeding grounds for shore flies.*



*Algae growing on greenhouse floor.*