- SHORE FLIES -



Shore fly adult.

Shore flies (*Scatella stagnalis*), like fungus gnats, are found in greenhouses that have high algae growth due to humid and excessively moist (overwatered) conditions. These pests are merely a nuisance when large populations are present. They typically do not feed on plants. Fecal deposits can be a cosmetic nuisance. Shore flies adults can spread fungal spores and aid in the spreading of various plant pathogens.

Life Cycle

Shore flies lay their eggs near algae scum. After the larvae hatch, they begin feeding on algae. They go through 3 larval stages and a pupal stage before emerging as an adult. They complete their life cycle (egg to adult) in approximately 2 weeks.



Shore fly larvae (clear) and pupa (brown)

Identification

Adult shore flies are about 0.08 in long. They are black, have short antennae and relatively short legs. They have distinct white-grey spots on their wings. Larvae have no real distinct head capsule, and it's body can be an opaque yellow, white or brown color. Pupae are oftentimes brown. Both larvae and pupae have distinct forked air tubes (not antennae) on their rear ends.

Photo Credits & References:

J. K. Clark, UC Statewide IPM Program, University of California Koppert Biological Systems. 1992. *Knowing and Recognizing: The Biology of Glasshouse Pests and Their Natural Enemies*.

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