



INSECTS IMPLICATED IN ALLERGIC DISEASES



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Possible routes of sensitization include bite, sting, inhalation, ingestion, and percutaneous absorption. Allergenic cross-reactivities across diverse insect families may be significant for some patients.

Black ant (Carpenter ant)



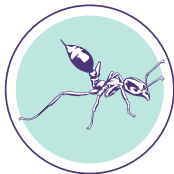
Scientific Name: *Camponotus pennsylvanicus*

Size (mm): 7-12

Characteristics: Black or dark brown, usually wingless, and non-stinging, but will bite and spray formic acid. Ants are commonly found in old wood, trees, houses, and in all the surrounding ground areas.

Distribution (US): Widespread

Fire ant



Scientific Name: *Solenopsis invicta*; *Solenopsis richteri*

Size (mm): 4

Characteristics: Reddish-brown, aggressive, stinging ant. Fire ants are a serious problem for farmers because widespread infestation causes losses in crops and livestock.

Distribution (US): Southeast mainly, but rapidly spreading north and west.

Caddisfly



Scientific Name: Trichoptera

Size (mm): 10-25

Characteristics: Moth-like, usually dull-colored, but a few are conspicuously patterned. These weak fliers live their short lives near water.

Distribution (US): Widespread

Cockroach, American



Scientific Name: *Periplaneta americana*

Size (mm): 10-30

Characteristics: Dark brown, soft, shiny, and slippery pest. Roaches are annoying contaminants of food and give off an unpleasant odor in large numbers.

Distribution (US): Widespread. These common roaches are most abundant in the South, but have spread via food shippers to colder regions where they proliferate in indoor environments.

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Cockroach, German



Scientific Name: *Blattella germanica*

Size (mm): 10-15

Characteristics: Brown and soft-shelled pest. Habitat and characteristics similar to American cockroach. Eradication of household roaches requires diligent control measures.

Distribution (US): Widespread. These common roaches are most abundant in the South, but have spread via food shippers to colder regions where they proliferate in indoor environments.

Deer fly



Scientific Name: *Chrysops* sp.

Size (mm): 5-8

Characteristics: Yellowish bloodsucker. These stout-bodied flies buzz around the head and get in the hair. They are usually encountered near marshes or streams. May transmit disease from one animal to another.

Distribution (US): Widespread

Horse fly



Scientific Name: *Tabanus* spp.

Size (mm): 13-15

Characteristics: A close relative of the deer fly with similar characteristics but larger in size. The females are bloodsuckers and lay their eggs on leaves or objects near water.

Distribution (US): Widespread

House fly



Scientific Name: *Musca domestica*

Size (mm): 5-8

Characteristics: Black, non-biting, often very abundant. Breeds in filth of all kinds and is a vector of many serious diseases to animals and humans. Close relative of the stable fly and horn fly.

Distribution (US): Widespread

Mayfly



Scientific Name: Ephemeroptera

Size (mm): 2-8

Characteristics: Delicate, short-lived, pale insect common near lakes, ponds, and streams. Known to swarm in enormous numbers and literally pile up along shores or nearby streets.

Distribution (US): Widespread

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Mosquito



Scientific Name: Culicidae (distinct from *Culicoides* genus)

Size (mm): 5

Characteristics: A large, abundant, well-known group, usually reddish-brown. These bloodsucking biters can transmit many serious diseases to animals. Any standing water will serve as a breeding habitat.

Distribution (US): Widespread

Moth



Scientific Name: Lepidoptera

Size (mm): 5-50

Characteristics: These dusty-looking insects are night-flyers and are attracted by light. Plant-eating larvae (caterpillar stage) usually make cocoons.

Distribution (US): Widespread

Flea



Scientific Name: *Ctenocephalides canis* / *C. felis*

Size (mm): 1-2

Characteristics: Small, brown pest. These bloodsucking biters have difficulty proliferating in climates with low humidity or low temperatures.

Distribution (US): Uncommon in deserts, extreme northern states, and mountainous areas. Abundant elsewhere.

Culicoides (no-see-ums, punkies, midges)



Scientific Name: *Culicoides* spp. (distinct from Culicidae family)

Size (mm): <1

Characteristics: Tiny, slender flies that are most abundant near seashores or shores of lakes and rivers. Bloodsuckers, they will bite humans, animals, and other insects.

Distribution (US): Widespread