Mansonia (Mansonia) titillans (Walker, 1848), WRBU specimen MAtit, Character descriptions: Carpenter and LaCasse, 1955:107

Thorax. Pleura with lightly scaled areas of grayish-white scales. Postspiracular bristles present.

Head. Proboscis dark, speckled with pale scales, and with a narrow white ring near apical third; palpi a little more than one-third as long as the proboscis (segment 4 twice as long as segment 3) dark-scaled, speckled with white, with small terminal segment white. Occiput with pale lanceolate scales and numerous dark-brown or black erect forked scales.
Bionomics: After hatching, the larvae attach themselves to the submerged roots of aquatic plants from which they obtain oxygen. The pupae also remain attached to the roots of the plants until time for emergence of the adults. Water lettuce (Pistia) and water hyacinth (Eichornia crassipes) are claimed to be the principal host plant. The females are troublesome out-of-doors biters and are known to fly several miles from marshes, ponds, and lakes where their immature stages occur. (Carpenter and LaCasse, 1955:108)

Medical Importance: The virus causing Venezuelan equine encephalitis (VEE) has been recovered from wild-caught Mansonia titillans in Trinidad and it is believed that the species may have been an important vector of this disease during an epidemic in Trinidad in 1942-1943. According to Belding, this species is known to be a vector of filariasis. (Carpenter and LaCasse, 1955:108)