

Crane Fly Facts

Crane flies are **harmless** and incapable of biting humans or eating mosquitoes.



Crane flies belong to the family Tipulidae.

Their bodies measure anywhere from $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ " or larger and they have long ungainly legs. They closely resemble mosquitoes, only much larger, and common names include "mosquito-hawk" and "daddy-long legs."

In spring, when food is plentiful for worm-like, ground dwelling larvae and moist weather conditions persist, adults can appear in large numbers.

Adults are attracted to lights and often make their way inside - much to the annoyance of home owners.

There are over 15,000 described species of crane flies world-wide and another 10,000 to 15,000 species not yet described (1).

Of the approximately 1,500 species of crane flies found in North America, more than 400 species live in California, and many of those are found in the Los Angeles Basin (2).

The Giant Crane Fly, *Holorusia hespera*, is found in the Los Angeles Basin and is one of the world's largest flies with a wingspan of almost 3" (2)

References:

(1) www.cals.cornell.edu

(2) Insects of the Los Angeles Basin, Hogue, Charles L., Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County; pp 232-233.

Photo from Wayne's Word online: <http://waynesword.palomar.edu/>.

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