

Colorado Insect of Interest

Ceroxys latiusculus (A Picture-winged Fly)

Scientific Name: *Ceroxys latiusculus* (Loew)

Order: Diptera (True Flies)

Family: Ulidiidae (Picture-winged flies)

Identification and Descriptive Features: *Ceroxys latiusculus* is a moderate sized fly (9-12 mm) about the size of a house fly. Its general coloration is grayish-brown but the most notable physical feature are the wings which have dark patterned markings. This is the only common “picture-winged fly” that occurs in Colorado buildings.

Distribution in Colorado: Likely present throughout the state in plains and foothills areas.

Life History and Habits: Little is known about the biology of this insect. Larvae develop within the seed heads of *Senecio* and other composite flowers.

What attracts attention is that this species frequently enters buildings in autumn as it searches for sites to survive winter. Along with cluster flies (*Pollenia* species), this picture-winged fly is the most common fly found indoors during at this time of year.



Figure 1. *Ceroxys latiusculus*, a type of picture-winged fly.



Figure 2. *Ceroxys latiusculus* sunning on a building wall in early fall. These flies often incidentally enter homes at this time of year.