

Syrphid Flies (Flower Flies, Hover Flies)

Adult stages of syrphid flies typically have yellow/orange and black markings creating an appearance that causes them to mimic/resemble bees or wasps. Known variously as “flower flies”, because they are often seen visiting flowers for nectar, or “hover flies”, because they can hover in flight, they are harmless and can neither bite nor sting. The nectar from flowers or the sweet honeydew excrement of aphids and related insects are the foods on which the flies feed. Adults lay their egg near colonies of aphids.

Immature stages (larvae) of flower flies develop as predators of aphids. However, the larvae are infrequently observed on plants as they are legless, move slowly, and often have coloration (greens, grays) that blends well with the leaf surface.

Diptera: Syrphidae



Adult syrphid flies (flower flies)



Syrphid fly larva in aphid colony



Syrphid fly larva